

THE



TIMES

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TODAY
10p

PART ONE

THE OTHER KINSEY REPORT

Sex secrets and a sense of power
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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Who would be a referee?
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TODAY
10p

Rebels face three-line whip

Hague seeks showdown on Europe vote

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE is preparing for a confrontation with his pro-European colleagues which could trigger the resignation of other Tory front-benchers, including Sir George Young.

The Conservative leader is demanding party unity over his opposition to last June's Amsterdam treaty, which includes steps toward further European integration, and he is expected to impose a three-line whip when MPs vote on whether it should be incorporated into UK law.

But several pro-European MPs, including front-benchers, have said that they would not vote against the treaty when it is debated in the Commons next week.

Mr Hague's tough stance comes after calls yesterday for the expulsion of prominent pro-Europeans, such as Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, after a spat of attacks on his leadership.

David Curry, who resigned as Shadow Agriculture Minister over the weekend, claimed that Mr Hague had made a "declaration of war" over the single currency and Mr Heseltine said that Mr Hague had made an unnecessary mistake in toughening the party policy.

Senior pro-European back-benchers say that a three-line whip on the Amsterdam Treaty could prove the crunch point for their continued loyalty to the Tory leader. "A handful of MPs, including front-benchers, have told me

Politics wrecked on Europe's rock

The single currency is the rock upon which the old structure and shape of our politics is breaking. There are no longer three main parties in Britain: there are five. When the change is over our politics will look much more like those on the continent.

Paddy Ashdown, page 20

that the one issue that could cause the problem for them would be if we were asked to vote against the Amsterdam treaty," one MP said.

Tory sources said that senior party figures had contacted Sir George Young, now the most pro-European Shadow Cabinet member, over the weekend and he had reassured them he was not about to quit. But it emerged yesterday that he had considered resigning last week and many of his colleagues still expect him to follow Mr Curry.

Jan Taylor, who quit as a Northern Ireland spokesman last week, said: "I hope we don't take a bull-headed attitude to the Amsterdam treaty. These are the sort of issues which could trigger further problems within the party."

But Mr Hague's aides insisted that a three-line whip was likely — although that would ultimately be up to business managers. "We opposed most of the Amsterdam

Treaty when we were in government. We are against extending qualified majority voting and greater integration," one said.

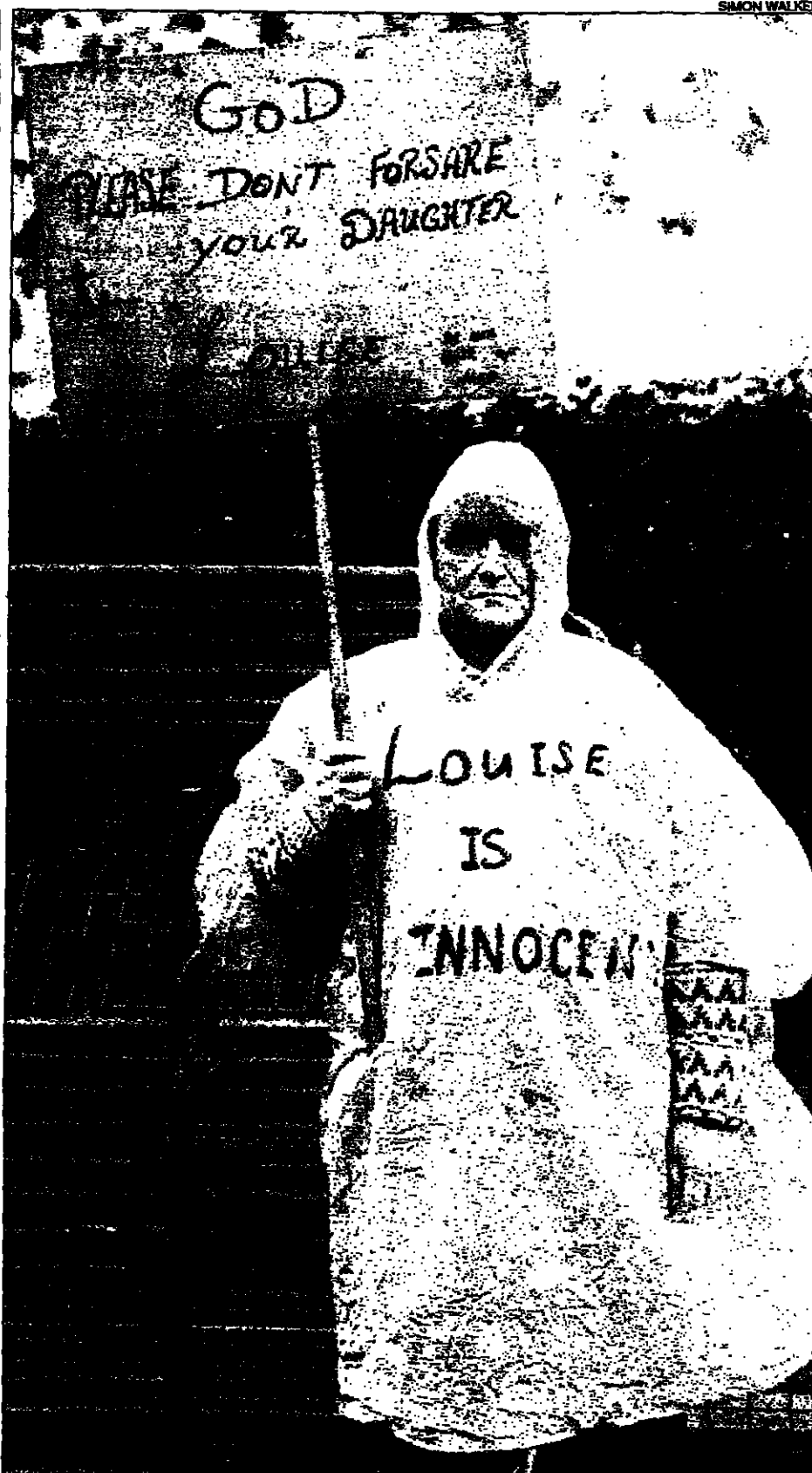
Earlier Alan Clark, the MP for Kensington and Chelsea, called on Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke to resign from the party or stop railing against Mr Hague's line on a single currency, saying: "If they won't shut up they should leave."

He also accused Mr Clarke of deliberately trying to destabilise the Tory leadership for his own long-term gains. "It is perfectly clear that all these ex-Cabinet ministers are trying to get at and destabilise the present leadership," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*. "Mr Clarke went out of his way during the Conservative Party conference to say that he hadn't given up hope of leading the Conservative Party, which was an extremely tactless and uncouth thing to say."

But Mr Heseltine was unrepentant and repeated his belief that the Tory leader had no need to take up such a definite stance on the single currency so early in the Parliament.

He also said that he had no intention of leaving the party. It would be a great mistake if the Tory party split in two. "One of the reasons why I spoke as I did was I could see precisely the risks of people leaving the party."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Brian Titchener picketing the American Embassy for the release of Louise Woodward

Special plea to manslaughter may be lifeline for Woodward

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND DANIEL McGRORY

LOUISE WOODWARD may have to plead guilty to manslaughter — even though she is still protesting that she did not kill baby Matthew Eappen — if she is to have any real hope of an early release from jail, lawyers in Boston said yesterday.

Judge Hiller B. Zobel is thought unlikely to use his powers to overturn the jury's verdict, but lawyers believe he could well replace the murder conviction with one of manslaughter after hearing emergency motions from the defence tomorrow.

To do so, however, Woodward would have to accept a guilty plea and sign a binding agreement to that effect. And as the deadline for the submission of motions on her behalf approaches, she was said to be adamant that she would make no admission of guilt whatsoever.

It was her refusal to make any such admission that pushed the defence into its "murder or nothing" strategy during the trial that ended with her conviction of the second-degree murder of an eight-month-old baby in her charge. And many fear that her continued refusal could jeopardise her prospect of a sympathetic ruling from Judge Zobel.

Close friends from her home village in Elton, Cheshire, who have spoken to her parents in Boston say that she is intent on proving her innocence when she appears in court again on Tuesday and that she is not interested in being a party to any legal deal that frees her.

Hazel Mayamba-Kosongo said: "Louise is innocent and will not accept she played any part in that baby's death."

The prominent Boston attorney Thomas Hoopes has, however, said that there might be an escape route for Woodward in a so-called "Alford plea". That would allow her to enter a guilty plea along with an explanation saying that she was doing so only because the circumstances in which she found herself left her with no other option.

According to Mr Hoopes, that would be a way of saying: "I'm telling you I did it because you leave me with no choice. I'm not telling you I did it because I did do it."

Meanwhile support for the 19-year-old au pair continues to grow daily. In Britain a fund set up to fight for her freedom has reached £125,000 and yesterday thousands of well-wishers converged on Elton to pledge support. Families queued to get into the Rigger pub, which has become a makeshift campaign headquarters, and there were prayers at a special church service in the village. Ms Mayamba-Kosongo said that it took her more than two hours to walk the 100 yards from the church to the pub.

There was a further vigil by demonstrators wearing yellow ribbons outside the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square, where Hillary Clinton was hosting a reception. She was driven to a back entrance to avoid the protest.

In America, too, the case is dominating radio and television talk shows — with the overwhelming majority backing Woodward — that there is almost certain to be an explosion of outrage if the judge does not make a decision in her favour tomorrow.

Village besieged, page 3
William Rees-Mogg, page 20

Saddam faces American raids

American Congressional leaders supported military force against President Saddam Hussein in the form of airstrikes or Tomahawk cruise missile attacks after three American members of a UN weapons inspection team were turned back when they arrived in Iraq on a flight from Bahrain. Page 14

Parish rebels

Jesmond parish church, a large evangelical congregation, is refusing to accept the Bishop of Newcastle's authority because of his support for homosexuals. Page 5

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Essex fog pile-up blamed on 'stupid' 70mph drivers

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

POLICE condemned the "utter stupidity" of motorists driving at speed in thick fog yesterday after more than a hundred vehicles were involved in multiple crashes which closed the A12 in Essex.

Two police cars were hit as they tried to slow down traffic while police switchboard operators overheard the noise of screeching tyres and bangs as anxious drivers rang in on mobile phones.

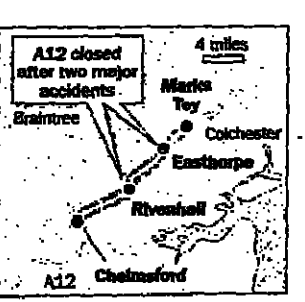
Sixty people were injured, five seriously, and a 25-mile stretch of the road from Chelmsford to Marks Tey, near Colchester, was closed for most of the day. Essex police said there was not a single mile of the road that did not appear to have been marked by an accident.

Superintendent Doug Adams of Essex Traffic Division said that in some areas visibility was down to five yards but many drivers were

still travelling at up to 70 mph, many without their headlights on. "The multiple crashes in the fog were due almost entirely to motorists driving too fast. In my experience this is the area's worst-ever traffic pile-up," he said.

Many drivers had to be cut free from the wreckage of their cars. One crash involved a car transporter that hit the central reservation.

Roy and Sandra Unwin, whose car was reduced to half its length, escaped unhurt but said the scenes on the road



were chaotic. "I had slowed down because of the conditions but a lorry just drove into the back of me, spinning me round and we were hit by two other cars," Mr Unwin, 51, said.

"Some women were hysterical and a lot of people were just getting out of their cars and running in to the fields to escape. It is amazing that we got out without a scratch."

Elsewhere, a multiple crash on the M11 between junctions eight and nine closed the London-bound carriageway of the motorway for three hours. In Headley Down, Hampshire, several firemen were injured when two fire engines on their way to an emergency call left the road in thick fog.

Mist was forecast again today after thick overnight fog, particularly in the South East.

Photograph, page 24

Truckers defy ban to beat blockade

FROM ADRIAN LEE IN CALAIS

BRITISH lorry drivers defied a Sunday driving ban as they tried to beat a blockade of key roads by their French counterparts agitating for more pay.

As hopes of a last-minute deal on a wage package appeared to break down, French drivers began blockading fuel depots even before the strike was officially due to start last night.

French law bans all non-refrigerated lorries from the roads until 10pm on Sunday but British drivers said fines of between £60 and £90 were a small price to pay if it meant getting home or through Calais with their loads.

"I am prepared to risk it," said James Wilson, 52, from Dalbeattie, Dumfries, at Calais ferry terminal. "As soon as it gets dark I will take a flyer and hope that I get away with it. I will probably try to tuck in between two refrigerated lorries and hope the authorities

think I am one of them." During the last strike, which paralysed France for 12 days, he was stuck for three days.

Malcolm Chidgey, 45, and his wife Yvonne, 43, from Torpoint, Cornwall, said they would wait until the Sunday driving ban expired before attempting to leave Calais. They are scheduled to make a week-long trip to Italy. "I actually sympathise with the French drivers," he said. "I know they have been let down." He said making a detour through Belgium, Germany and Austria would add 500 miles to his journey.

Dan Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said he was aware some drivers were flouting the Sunday driving ban on heavy-goods vehicles. "While we don't condone that, we would ask the French authorities to be lenient," he said.

Deal rejected, page 13

100 words conjure up the story of our century

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JUST 100 words are needed to evoke the history of the 20th century. Wars and revolutions, men on the moon, rock'n'roll and Aids are all there — 100 years and just a word for each.

This exercise in condensation has been achieved by Collins Dictionaries, which claims to have drawn up a list of the words that define the century. They were chosen from those that became common usage and popped up in dictionaries and other reference books in each year.

Diana Treffy, publishing manager of Collins English Dictionaries, said: "We tried to choose words that came

into being in a particular year which suggested a view of that time and ultimately of the century itself."

One of the darkest shadows cast across our times is hinted at in the very first word chosen, in 1896, *Aspirin* is the next entry.

The pain of the subsequent decades is well documented. *Alibi* and *tank*, *Cheka*, *bolshie* and *fascism* cover just the war and revolution years until 1919. The misery that followed can be traced through *neutron*, *Gestapo*, *radar*, *Dam Busters* and *doodlebug*. But the year when the Second World War ended is marked by *Tupperware*.

The grim catalogue continues with

the deceptively cheery-looking *bikini* and the Cold War expressions *Big Brother*, *newspaper* and *Nato*. *Cultural Revolution* is a reminder that the 1960s were not as frivolous as some might recall (or fail to recall). Within recent memory the optimism that accompanied the entry of *Velvet Revolution* into our lexicon was soon dispelled by *ethnic cleansing*.

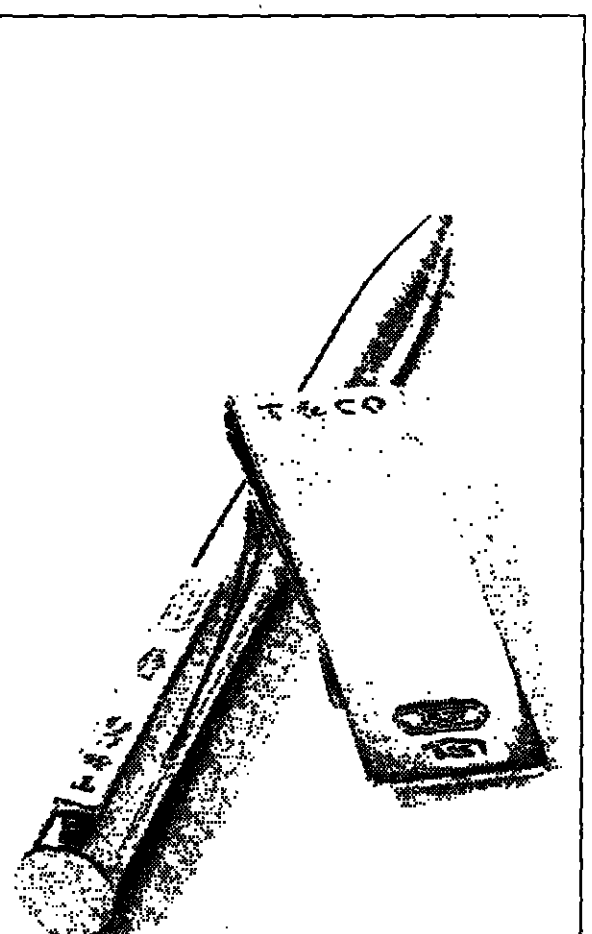
At home, one might be forgiven for thinking that politics were dominated by socialism. The century opened with the emergence of *Labour Party* and the word for 1997 (tossed in as a bonus 101st entry) is *Blairite*. Thatcherism, however, is not included.

The extraordinary, head-long ad-

vance of science is well charted, from *fingerprint* to *robot*, *moonbuggy* and the *Information Superhighway*. Medical advances, including *penicillin* and *test-tube baby*, have been great. But *Aids* is a salutary reminder that we do not control nature as well as we conjure up acronyms to describe its more horrible manifestations.

The 1950s was perhaps the jolliest decade of all. A *Teddy Boy* could go to a *discotheque*, listen to *rock'n'roll*, get *stoned* and take the *Hovercraft* home with only John Osborne's *angry young man* to spoil the *psychedelic party*.

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Leading article, page 21



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Pressure grows to save foxhunting Bill

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND POLLY NEWTON

THE Government is facing mounting pressure from its backbenchers to find parliamentary time for a Private Member's Bill outlawing hunting with hounds, which is to be unveiled by its sponsors tomorrow.

The Bill will provide for jail terms of up to six months and fines of up to £5,000 for hunt participants and those who allow hunts to use their land.

It is expected that the Bill will propose banning the use of dogs "to chase, pursue, harry, bait, attack, injure or kill an animal" but will permit farmers to use dogs to "flush out" foxes from cover provided that the fleeing animals are then shot.

Last night Downing Street was sticking to the government line that no time could be

found for the Bill in this parliamentary session but did not rule out the possibility of official backing for an anti-hunting Bill at some stage before the next election.

Farmers' leaders said yesterday that a hunting ban on the lines proposed would have far-reaching implications for animal welfare and pest control in the countryside.

The Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, promoted by Mike Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, is scheduled for a second reading debate and a free vote in the Commons on November 28, where it seems certain to be supported by most MPs.

In response to a questionnaire sent to all 659 MPs last week by the *New Statesman* magazine, 299 out of the 402 MPs who replied said they would support Mr Foster's Bill. Out of the 275 Labour MPs who replied,

only one opposed the Bill, while eight were undecided. Eleven Cabinet ministers were among the Bill's supporters.

What happens after November 28 will depend on whether the Government allocates enough time to the Bill to prevent its being "talked out" by opponents.

Government business managers fear that if the anti-hunting Bill were allowed to reach the Lords, filibustering by pro-hunting peers could delay, or even block, the passage of other legislation to which ministers attach far more importance, such as the devolution Bills.

Publication of Mr Foster's Bill comes three days after the opening of the foxhunting season and will be accompanied by the release of a MORI opinion poll suggesting that people living in the country-

side would vote by almost two to one in favour of a hunting ban.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the poll showed that out of some 1,500 people in rural areas who were asked whether they would support or oppose an anti-hunting Bill, 57 per cent said they would support it and 32 per cent that they would oppose it.

Sir David Naisbitt, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said: "I would be very worried indeed if a Bill along these lines were to be pushed through Parliament. Would kill farmers have to get a court order every time they wanted to deal with a rogue fox which was attacking their flocks?"

"How do you ensure a clean, quick kill by shooting? We need a proper inquiry into the implications of such legislation, preferably

by a Royal Commission." Peter Allen, a sheep farmer in Cumbria, said: "On the open fell, where packs of hounds are widely used to track down foxes that have been attacking sheep, flushing out is simply not an option. Sometimes the hounds will corner the fox in a hole underground where it can be dug out and shot, but they also catch and kill a large percentage of foxes on high, open ground."

The Government faces a cross-party revolt in the Lords over its decision to go ahead with Tory plans to cut single-parent benefits. Tomorrow Earl Russell, the Liberal Democrat social security spokesman, will try to force a vote opposing the move. He expects support from about ten crossbench peers, the bench of Bishops, some Labour peers and even a few Tories.

IN BRIEF

Pensions boost for NHS workers

Health service staff who were mis-sold personal pension plans will be allowed to rejoin the NHS scheme without delay, the Government will announce today. Between 1988 and 1994 an estimated 42,000 employees were persuaded to opt out of their occupational scheme and enter comparatively unfavourable private pension arrangements.

Bentley review

The case of Derek Bentley, hanged 44 years ago for the murder of a policeman, is expected to be referred back to the Court of Appeal this week by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which is also expected to provide a list of reasons for its conclusion.

Police switch

More than half of junior police officers would be happy to have allegations against them investigated by an independent team instead of the Police Complaints Authority, as at present. Eight in ten officers believed the public would have more confidence in the results.

Whale stranded

Coastguards were last night trying to guide a 45 ft minke whale back to the North Sea after it became stranded more than 20 miles up the Humber estuary, at South Ferriby. The incoming tide floated the whale shortly after 4pm and boats tried to herd it away.

Man burnt

A fancy-dress partygoer who swathed himself in lavatory paper to pose as an Egyptian mummy may need skin grafts after he set himself alight and was badly burnt. The 19-year-old man was treated in hospital in Plymouth after brushing against a smoker at a pub in Devonport.

Britain tops EU cannabis league

By STEWART TENDLER

BRITAIN tops the European drug-abuse league, with young people regularly using cannabis and "rave" drugs, according to a European Union survey released yesterday.

The report was produced by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, based in Lisbon. It compares the findings of national drug surveys in a number of European countries.

It found that 29 per cent of Britons under 40 had tried cannabis, the second highest figure after Denmark, with 43 per cent. But Britons used it most regularly, with 13 per cent admitting taking it in the past year.

The centre also found that Britain's under-40s were the largest users of dance or rave drugs. Eleven per cent reported having taken amphetamines and 4 per cent took them in the previous year. Four per cent had tried Ecstasy and half of them took it in the previous 12 months.

Britain ranked third for cocaine abuse by under-40s, behind Spain and Germany. Heroin abuse was low but addiction was growing.

McAleese faces dilemma over wearing poppy

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARY McALEESE, the Irish president elect, faces a dilemma over whether to wear a poppy on her inauguration, which coincides with Armistice Day.

Dr McAleese, who yesterday said she hoped to invite the Queen and Ulster's Unionist leaders to visit, has repeatedly claimed that she can help to unite Unionists and nationalists.

Her first test will come on Tuesday, November 11, on her first day in office, when crowds will gather in Dublin to commemorate the estimated 45,000 Irish soldiers who died fighting in the two world wars.

Irish nationalists perceive the poppy as a Unionist symbol and avoid the commemorations. But Mary Robinson, the former president, became the first Irish

head of state to attend the memorial events at Islandbridge in Dublin.

This year's event is particularly poignant because it marks the tenth anniversary of the IRA bomb in Enniskillen that killed 11 people, including Marie Wilson, the daughter of peace campaigner Gordon Wilson. The victims had gathered to commemorate the war dead when the bomb exploded.

Dr McAleese was clearly taken aback when the issue arose over the weekend. Fianna Fail officials admit that it presents a problem for their new president, who secured a resounding victory in Thursday's election with 58.7 per cent of the vote. The president elect said the poppy suggestion was "interesting" and that she would give it careful consideration.



Dr McAleese leaving church yesterday. She said the suggestion that she should wear a poppy was "interesting"

Ministers plan political vetting for quango posts

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

APPLICANTS for regional quangos and NHS trusts may have to declare political loyalties and voting records under plans being discussed by ministers.

They might also have to say whether they belong to a political

party, and if they have donated funds. The moves, which would end the traditional secrecy of the ballot box, are being canvassed by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who want to ensure that local bodies are properly representative.

Their views have emerged as the Government prepares its submission

to a review of public appointments procedures by Lord Nolan, the public standards watchdog. David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has also consulted colleagues on the issue.

Magistrates' benches are already vetted in an effort to achieve political balance. Applicants are asked about their politics on their application

form and at interview. However, they are not obliged to answer.

Ministers believe there should be explicit questions asking about political allegiance on application forms for local appointments. They do not, however, believe the question is necessary for appointments to national quangos and committees.

The move would directly contradict

the recommendations of Lord Nolan, who was adamant in his committee's first report that "inclination to vote and membership of a party should remain party matters". The Committee of Standards in Public Life accepted the arrangements for appointing magistrates, but said: "We believe there are dangers in extending this approach more widely."

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Hundreds converge on Elton to join yellow ribbon campaign

A VILLAGE UNDER SIEGE

By RUSSELL JENKINS
AND DANIEL MCGORRY

SUPPORTERS of Louise Woodward descended in their thousands on her home village of Elton, Cheshire, yesterday to offer money to her appeal fund and to join the campaign to free her.

Police had to close approaches to Elton to stem the tide of well-wishers. Families waited for hours to edge their way into The Rigger — the pub that has become the focal point of the appeal — to leave their donations on a table beside Woodward's photograph. Hundreds crowded on to the village green parading their yellow ribbons and carrying banners in support of the 19-year-old. They joined hands in a silent vigil under the banner "Louise Woodward is innocent".

Demonstrators waited outside the American Embassy in London to voice their protests to Hillary Clinton. Secret Servicemen drove the First Lady to the back of the building to avoid the group, who were demanding the au pair's immediate release. They draped yellow ribbons over barriers outside the embassy in Grosvenor Square, lit candles and shouted slogans as guests including Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, arrived for a reception.

Andrew Millar, the local Labour MP, is going to see Foreign Office ministers today as the momentum to free the au pair gathers pace.

In Elton, villagers had prayed for Woodward at a special church service at St Mary's in which they were asked to remember her parents, Susan and Gary, who were visiting their daughter in prison.

The Rev Ken Davey led a prayer for those "whose vision of the world is seen through prison bars". He said that he was too emotional to preach a sermon dedicated to Woodward, but, referring to the trial jury, he said: "When you have people who know someone is innocent, but you have people saying that person is guilty, then you have



Supporters of Louise Woodward in Elton with a giant yellow ribbon yesterday. So far the fund has raised more than £125,000

pressure to say they are guilty."

Friends who talked to the family in Boston said that Woodward was intent on proving her innocence when she appeared in court again on Tuesday and was not interested in being a party to any legal deal to free her. Hazel Mayamba-Kosongo said: "Louise is innocent and will not accept she played any part in that baby's death."

She said that it took her more than two hours to walk the 100 yards from the church service to the campaign headquarters in the pub yesterday. "People have come from all over Britain. The interest and the support is greater than

ever; we are overwhelmed and frankly cannot cope." One caller from Ireland pledged £1,000 and many supporters from the United States offered money which will be used to allow Mrs Woodward to stay in Boston.

Campaigners are hopeful that the American recruitment agency that hired Woodward will fund her appeal. British barristers were among those offering their support last night. John Cooper, who successfully defended 19-year-old Stephen Packman, who was accused of supplying the Ecstasy tablet that killed Leah Betts, was co-ordinating legal advice from Britain.

"American law is influenced

by what happens in Britain," he said. "This pressure will filter through. We want to co-operate with the Americans, not combat them, and will offer any help we can for free."

The mood in Elton is one of anticipation and trepidation about what the judge, Hiller Zobel, may say when he addresses the court tomorrow. Debbie Lalor, who employed Woodward as a babysitter, said: "Never in my wildest dreams did I believe they would bring in that verdict. Now we have to gather our strength again and wait for Tuesday. We have got to be 100 per cent positive until then. Surely the judge must be seeing the response that is

coming from around the world?"

Carole Nixon, one of the appeal fund organisers, said much of the support was from abroad, a lot of it from the United States. Extra telephone lines set up at the pub were unable to cope with the number of calls.

Mrs Mayamba-Kosongo said they were considering setting up counselling lines for people ringing to express their grief at the conviction. "We expected the interest to die down after a few days, but it seems greater than ever. Today we have had people drive up from London to show their support for us."

Alan and Doreen Davies

and their three children, Sarah, 11, Catherine, 14, and Alan, 8, from Hyde, Cheshire, were among the well-wishers. In their car was a handwritten placard with the words: "Those that accuse, stand accused. Set Louise free."

Mrs Davies said: "We needed to come here today because we believe passionately that Louise is innocent. This could have happened to anybody's daughter. We felt we needed to be here."

Hundreds attended a vigil outside the American Embassy in Dublin last night to protest at the conviction. The protest lasted more than an hour and hundreds of people signed a petition.

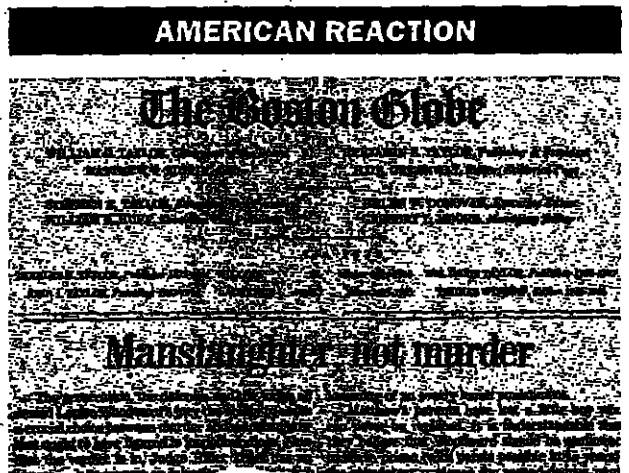
Boston paper urges judge to issue manslaughter charge

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE leading newspaper in Massachusetts, the *Boston Globe*, has called on Judge Hiller B. Zobel to strike out the verdict of second-degree murder and substitute a charge of manslaughter.

An editorial in the newspaper said: "The prosecution, the defence, and the judge all denied Louise Woodward's jury the ability to make a crucial choice between murder and manslaughter that ought to have figured in its deliberations. Now that the verdict is in, Judge Hiller Zobel has an opportunity to prevent an injustice by making that choice in favour of manslaughter."

Observers here this means: go for manslaughter, and the newspaper will back you to the hilt. A local lawyer said: "The *Globe* is offering itself as a scapegoat to Zobel. If he wants to reduce the charges against Miss Woodward, he can take comfort from the fact that the biggest paper around here — really, the biggest player in the public opinion



The *Globe* said the judge could prevent injustice

stakes — wants him to do exactly that. "The case is now political. It is very unusual for a paper like the *Globe*, which is cautious, to lay its cards on the table so early in the game."

The editorial also called on Thomas Reilly, the district attorney for Middlesex County, "to acknowledge now that manslaughter is a more appropriate charge". Mr Reilly

has been heavily criticised for his decision to press murder charges. Critics have accused him of playing politics to further his hopes to become Attorney-General for Massachusetts state. Supporters of his opponent, Lois Pines, are already painting him as "the guy who sent Louise down".

The *Boston Globe* had harsh words for Miss Woodward's attorneys: "The

defence lawyers did their client a disservice with the strategy. This mistake should not preclude the lessening of an overly harsh punishment."

The *New York Times*, which has given the case scant coverage, published a lead editorial on Saturday. It said: "This may be one of those rare cases in which the testimony demands that the judge reviews the jury's verdict with searching intensity. The court's duty here is not lockstep adherence to the sentencing guidelines. The goal is justice."

However the *Boston Herald*, the local tabloid newspaper, was less sympathetic to Miss Woodward. "Louise Woodward has lost only her freedom and that possibly for a set time. The Eppens' loss can never be set right. It will go on forever."

A juror has denied claims from an alternate juror that the jury was influenced by a dislike for Barry Scheck, the defence lawyer. Speaking anonymously, the woman juror said: "The craziest thing I heard someone say is that we came to our decision because of Barry Scheck."

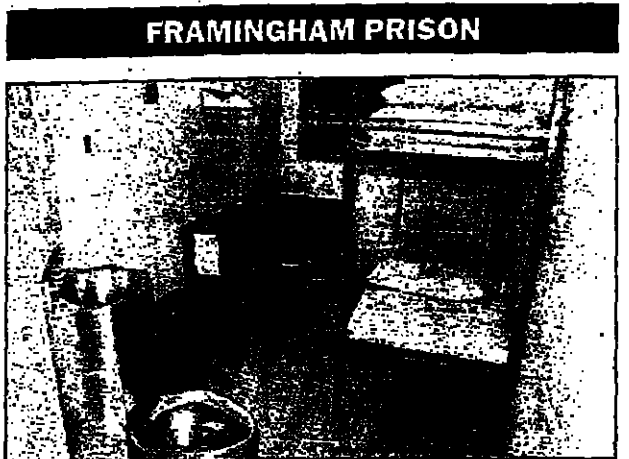
In solitary for her own safety

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LOUISE WOODWARD, who is now in solitary confinement at the Massachusetts State Correction Institute at Framingham, spent several hours with her lawyers over the weekend, attempting to compose their motions for Judge Hiller B. Zobel.

She was allowed to meet her parents, Gary and Susan, only briefly on Saturday, when they spent 20 minutes together. Yesterday Mrs Woodward said: "We want her back by Christmas. I will keep fighting to clear Louise's name until I breathe my last breath. We must be brave, we must be strong, and we shall see that justice prevails in the end."

Framingham, the only all-women's prison in Massachusetts, has been Miss Woodward's home since her arrest in February. She has



A cell in Framingham where Miss Woodward is held

never previously been kept in solitary confinement and it is now being done for her own protection. After her conviction, Miss Woodward can expect no sympathy from her fellow inmates. She will be transferred to the "general

population" of the prison once authorities conclude that the immediate threat of violence has abated. This could happen before the end of the month.

Framingham is overcrowded and disreputable. It counts murderers and drug-pushers

among its inmates. A maximum security institution, its walls are topped with barbed wire.

State officials say, however, that Miss Woodward could serve part of her sentence in Britain as the United States is a signatory to relevant provisions of the Compact of Europe.

According to Anthony Carnevale, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Miss Woodward would have to petition the state correction commissioner for a transfer. That petition would go to a state court and then for approval by a federal magistrate.

British courts accept a US court's sentence, but then apply early release rules in accordance with British law. But there have been few such international transfers, and none from Massachusetts.

THE JUDGE'S OPTIONS

'He will not strike down jury verdict'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN CAMBRIDGE

JUDGE Hiller B. Zobel will need to tread a very delicate path tomorrow when he hears a motion from defence lawyers asking him to set aside the jury's verdict.

Judge Zobel's task is a tricky one, not least because of the various currents of public opinion now swirling around the case. The question he must ask himself is relatively simple: was the jury's verdict so "unreasonable" that no "reasonable" jury, having regard to the evidence before it, could possibly have reached the same conclusion?

If the answer to that question is "yes", then it would be open to the judge to substitute his own verdict for that of the jury.

Andrew Good, Woodward's attorney, has said that he will ask the judge to either declare the verdict null and void, annul the verdict and order a fresh trial with a new jury, or set aside the verdict and substitute a charge of manslaughter.

American legal experts are pessimistic about the prospects for the first two motions. Since regular annulments would imperil the foundations of the jury system, judges rarely accede to them. Defence lawyers, therefore, are likely to be pinning their hopes most firmly on their "manslaughter motion".

Those that accuse, stand accused. Set Louise free."

Mrs Davies said: "We needed to come here today because we believe passionately that Louise is innocent. This could have happened to anybody's daughter. We felt we needed to be here."

Hundreds attended a vigil outside the American Embassy in Dublin last night to protest at the conviction. The protest lasted more than an hour and hundreds of people signed a petition.

capable of doing something, this is the guy. And given the clamour out there, in public opinion, polls, and newspapers, he must be feeling the pressure to do something.

"Make no mistake. It is normally extraordinary for a judge to respond favourably to these motions. Candidly, I have to say that he's not going to strike the jury's verdict down, and I don't think the defence really expects him to, either. They'll settle for a manslaughter plea with a short sentence, or no further sentence at all, given that she's been in custody since February."

Judge Zobel's distinguished curriculum vitae would appear to extend some small hope to Woodward. On two occasions, in 1981 and 1984, he has changed jury verdicts.

In both cases, men convicted of second degree murder by juries had their charges reduced to manslaughter by the judge. On their release, however, both men went on to kill again, and be convicted of murder. This ugly aftermath may have robbed Judge Zobel of his appetite for setting jury verdicts aside.

Yet the real stumbling block to the judge decreeing a lesser charge could prove to be Woodward herself. Legal experts believe that it would be difficult for Judge Zobel to accept the defence's "manslaughter motion" if it does not come accompanied by a guilty plea.

There is also the prosecution to consider. Gerard Leone, the prosecutor, has made it clear that he will appeal against any decision by the judge to alter the verdict. The defence, too, will take appeals to the Massachusetts Appeals Court and finally the Supreme Court.

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Educating Harry: from Spice Girls to Rorke's Drift

PRINCE HARRY was taken on a history lesson yesterday to the site of a memorable British military engagement that has passed into legend thanks to Michael Caine and the film *Zulu*.

The 13-year-old Prince accompanied his father, who is on a five-day official visit to South Africa, to Rorke's Drift in the north of KwaZulu-Natal, where, on January 22, 1879, a British force of fewer than 150 men held out against 4,000 Zulu warriors and gained 11 VC.

In contrast to the noise and glamour of Saturday night's Spice Girls concert, the Prince and his younger son travelled deep into the countryside to study one of the defining moments in the history of the Zulu nation, in preparation for a visit to a Zulu village today, at which Prince Harry will be on public view.

He performed his first overseas public engagement at the weekend and brought a hotel to a standstill. Guests rang fruitlessly for room service. All requests for sandwiches at the bar were refused. The chef had declined to prepare so much as a slice of toast until the Prince and his father had toured his pristine kitchens.

Walking two steps behind the Prince of Wales, who had arrived to open the new Hilton

Alan Hamilton
watches as the young Prince performs his first official Royal duty

in Sandton, near Johannesburg. Harry dutifully shook hands with chefs, waiters and washers-up, smiling back at those who flashed admiring grins at him. Not an onion was peeled nor a carrot chopped as staff crowded round for a sight of their diminutive visitor.

Dressed in a dark suit and purple and red silk tie, he seemed entirely at ease, occasionally exchanging comments and questions with the afternoon's mother figure, Maeva Fort, the High Commissioner in Pretoria and the most senior woman in the British Diplomatic Service.

Father and son had been reunited in a private suite at the hotel after Prince Harry's safari holiday which, it was disclosed yesterday, had been in the Okavango delta in Botswana. The Prince of

Wales delivered a speech declaring the hotel open. Prince Harry stood to one side, listening intently but impassively, and failing to laugh at his father's jokes. No doubt his mind was pre-occupied by the next, and somewhat more exciting, item on the agenda.

They left for the Johannesburg Stadium, where they took their seats high in the VIP box for the last part of an open-air charity rock concert. The whole concert spanned seven hours but the star attraction occupied a mere ten minutes. The Spice Girls gyrated and mimed their way through *Spice Up Your Life*, *Wannabe* and *Say You'll Be There*, looking like preposterous Barbie dolls balanced on six-inch platform shoes.

From his distant eyrie, Prince Harry watched the action through large binoculars and occasionally took photographs. At least he knew what they looked like, as he had been introduced to them backstage before their act, and had survived a chaotic media scrum as the world's press fought to capture the moment.

Earlier in the day the Spice Girls, who were giving their services free, had taken charge of a knockabout photo call with the Prince of Wales and President Mandela. Mr Mandela, possibly the most dignified world leader of our time, seemed content to play along with the indignities of a pop publicity stunt.

What did he think of meeting the Spice Girls? "It is the greatest moment of my life," he replied gamely. Was it the greatest moment in your life too, Your Royal Highness? "No," the Prince replied, "the second greatest." Oh, so what was the greatest, then? "When I first met them, in Manchester."

The girls pronounced Mr Mandela their hero. "But I am an old man," the 79-year-old protested. Ginger Spice slipped her arm around him. "You're as young as the girl you feel - and I'm 25," she said. The repartee went downhill after that.

Concert review, page 18



Teenage dream come true: Prince Harry backstage with Baby Spice in Johannesburg on Saturday



Stephen Pound: admits to being nervous about becoming part of nation's history with first speech

MPs still without the power of speech

By POLLY NEWTON

A DWINDLING band of new MPs is facing notoriety as the last of the 1997 intake to speak for the first time in the Commons chamber.

Although most newcomers have made their debut on the floor of the House, about 20 have yet to deliver their so-called maiden speech. Until they have done so they cannot take part in Parliamentary debates, although they can ask questions.

Several admitted last week that they were anxious to avoid bringing up the rear into the pages of *Hansard*, the official record of proceedings in Parliament. Others say they are unworried by the prospect.

Stephen Pound, Labour MP for Ealing North, said: "We are having a sweepstake on whether I'm going to be the last one. It's a badge of pride. I think MPs are far too verbose, by and large."

Mr Pound did, however, admit to some trepidation: "The thought that what you are saying is being listened to and written down to become part of the nation's history turns your bowels to water."

Doug Naysmith, Labour MP for Bristol North West, said: "I don't want to be the last. I'm quite keen to get it out of the way." So far he has been unable to catch the Speaker's eye.

Paul Clark, Labour MP for Gillingham, said he would make his maiden speech before Christmas, although he had plenty of other things to do as an MP. "If I had been sitting here doing nothing since May I would be worried that I hadn't done it, but the Commons is only part of an MP's work and I have been doing a great deal in the constituency. I'm not concerned about being one of the last."

Eco-warriors head for latest battleground

By ADRIAN LEE

VETERANS of the protests against the Newbury bypass and Manchester Airport extension are converging on what they expect to be the next environmental battleground — the proposed route for the first toll motorway.

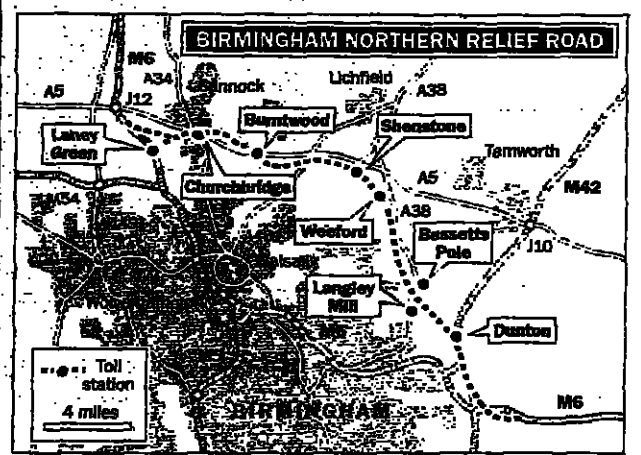
As they put together tree houses at the weekend, the self-styled eco-warriors promised a long campaign against the £400 million Birmingham Northern Relief Road, which will link the M6 with the M42 and is designed to ease congestion in the West Midlands.

The first batch of protesters have moved into Green Woods, near Tamworth, Staffordshire, owned by the ARC company, which extracts gravel from a neighbouring quarry. Other camps are expected along the 27½-mile route as opposition to the road, on which work is due to begin in

two years, gathers force. ARC said yesterday that it had no plans to try to remove the protesters. Police said the occupation was a civil matter because the site is privately owned, and they had no power to intervene.

Fern, 22, the daughter of psychology lecturers at Birmingham University, said: "This road will actually create more traffic. It is important to make a stand because it is the first toll motorway and others could follow."

Dee, another campaigner, is settling into his fifth camp, while Meadow is on his third. "Once people get to know that we are here, more will come," Fern said. "Because the land is still in private ownership they won't be able to use taxpayers' money to evict us and we hope that will put them off building the road."



Surrogate mother in legal fight for baby

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SURROGATE mother who refused to give up her baby at birth now faces a legal challenge over custody by its biological father.

Karen Roche, 32, had agreed to bear a child for Clemens and Sonja Peeters, a Dutch couple, but refused to give up baby Stuart when he was born eight days ago. Mr Peeters, the baby's natural father, has lodged an application at Middlesbrough County Court for access to his son.

His move is the culmination of nine months of wrangling between Ms Roche and the Peeterses over the baby's fate.

Ms Roche, a maternity nurse from Scarborough, agreed to bear the child for £12,000. But she called off the deal, saying she had "bonded" with the baby while it was in her womb.

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Parish rebels over new pro-gays bishop

Evangelicals will not accept an official appointment, writes Ruth Gledhill

THE vicar and congregation of a new bishop's largest church are refusing to accept his authority because of his support for homosexuals.

Jesmond parish church, an evangelical congregation in the Newcastle diocese, has declared itself "out of communion" with the Right Rev Martin Wharton, who is due to be installed as the Bishop of Newcastle in February. The parochial church council says: "We cannot have a bishop who affirms homosexual sex."

In a 22-page open letter today, the council demands that the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, appoint another bishop to care for them pastorally.

Bishop Wharton said on his appointment to Newcastle that "homosexuality within a loving permanent relationship is no sin". He is area bishop for Kingston-upon-Thames in the Southwark diocese and attended last year's controversial service of celebration in Southwark Cathedral to mark the 20th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Bishop Wharton, whose election to Newcastle has yet to be confirmed, comes from the liberal wing of the Church of England. He will replace the Right Rev Alec Graham, an Anglo-Catholic. Bishop Wharton is married with a daughter and two sons. Dr Hope, who is visiting the Middle East, has pledged to address the issue on his return.

The Rev David Holloway, vicar of Jesmond, said: "I have a legal duty under Church ordinals to drive away erroneous and strange doctrines. This is a mess and we have not caused it. How the problem is resolved is not ours."

"We have to be faithful to the Gospel. We are not fighting an individual. We just want the Church to see that we can't carry on in this way." Bishop Wharton is "by no means the most extreme" among the Church's pro-homosexual bishops, Mr Holloway said.

Bishop Wharton declined to comment yesterday but a spokesman said his views were in line with the House of Bishops' 1991 statement "on human sexuality, which sanctioned committed homosexual relationships for laity but



The Rev David Holloway opposes the appointment of the Right Rev David Wharton, below, as bishop



ruled them out for clergy.

The decision of the parish to declare itself outside the Church's official leadership brings to a head the simmering feud in the Church of England over the issue of homosexuality. Jesmond is among dozens of parishes that have allied themselves to the Reform movement, an increasingly influential body seeking to change the Church from within.

The hallmarks of Reform parishes are conservative evangelicalism and outspoken hostility to the prevailing liberal mood, in particular on

issues of sexuality and personal morality. Jesmond's statement will be debated by the Reform committee when it meets tomorrow. Other parishes are likely to take a similar stand.

In the statement, worked out in regular meetings through the summer, the church council says it will not accept Bishop Wharton as its bishop and is acting "out of fidelity to Jesus Christ, the Bible, the historic teaching of the Christian Church, the doctrine of the Church of England and our own trust deed which requires us to be a

church". It says the church members are no longer willing to put up with compromise or ambiguity. While expecting opposition from ordained clergy and bishops, the council continues: "We know that our views and concerns are shared by many, especially lay people."

The council accuses Church leaders in Britain and America of heresy on the issue, which it says is causing a decline in morale and numbers. British bishops are ignoring biblical teaching on homosexuality and that is "totally unacceptable", the council says. The parish is "at the very least" in impaired communion with the new bishop.

"This means we cannot accept the oversight of the bishop-elect of Newcastle — not on any personal grounds but on doctrinal and moral grounds. We therefore have to seek alternative episcopal oversight."

The church council has already invited an evangelical bishop to conduct a confirmation service next March. It wants Dr Hope to appoint another bishop to grant the necessary licences to the parish's lay reader and ordained staff worker. The council considers that any licences to be issued by Bishop Wharton will be defective because of his views on homosexuality. Its appeal to Dr Hope comes under Canon C17, which refers to his duty "to correct and supply the defects of other bishops".

Jesmond parish has allied itself with the Kuala Lumpur Statement, issued by Anglican bishops from four continents earlier this year, in which they denounced homosexual acts as "dishonouring to God". The Jesmond statement prefigures a possible split in the Church of England as the campaign to ordain homosexuals gathers strength. A international church commission is to be set up next year to examine all aspects of human sexuality.

The Rt Rev John Austin Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, recently gave a lecture arguing that practising homosexuals should be allowed to "marry" and to be ordained. Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has admitted knowingly ordaining a practising homosexual.



Activists from Stonewall and OutRage! in Whitehall yesterday, where they laid down pink wreaths

'Queer Remembrance' anger

Old soldiers condemn ceremony at Cenotaph, writes Kathryn Knight

GAY rights campaigners were condemned for staging a "Queer Remembrance Day" at the Cenotaph yesterday, a week before Remembrance Sunday.

More than 200 activists from Stonewall and OutRage!, the homosexual rights groups, gathered in Whitehall to lay pink wreaths and bouquets to commemorate

homosexual servicemen and women who served during the Second World War.

They were criticised by the Royal British Legion and other military organisations which said it was an offence to many soldiers who could not understand why they could not join the main service. Members of Rank Outsiders, an organisation of

homosexual former soldiers, were among those to lay pink tributes.

Peter Tatchell, of OutRage!, said British Legion officials should have attended. "If they had come along they would have seen that it was a solemn and dignified tribute," he said.

A spokesman at the British Legion headquarters in

London said it did not want to intervene but felt the ceremony was unnecessary and could cause offence. "It is bound to offend many former soldiers," he said.

Others were more outspoken. Albert Hopkins, 73, from the 8th Army Veterans Association, said it was a "cheap publicity stunt" and it was inappropriate for a minority group to hijack the Cenotaph for their own ends.

"If this was a remembrance ceremony, then why use pink flowers instead of the traditional poppies and wreaths? The Cenotaph is a memorial to all the war dead, not just minority groups. A lot of our members are deeply offended by what they have done."

Arthur Titterton, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said the ceremony was "distasteful and unnecessary". "As far as I'm concerned, homosexuals who died during the war were just soldiers and are remembered alongside everyone else."

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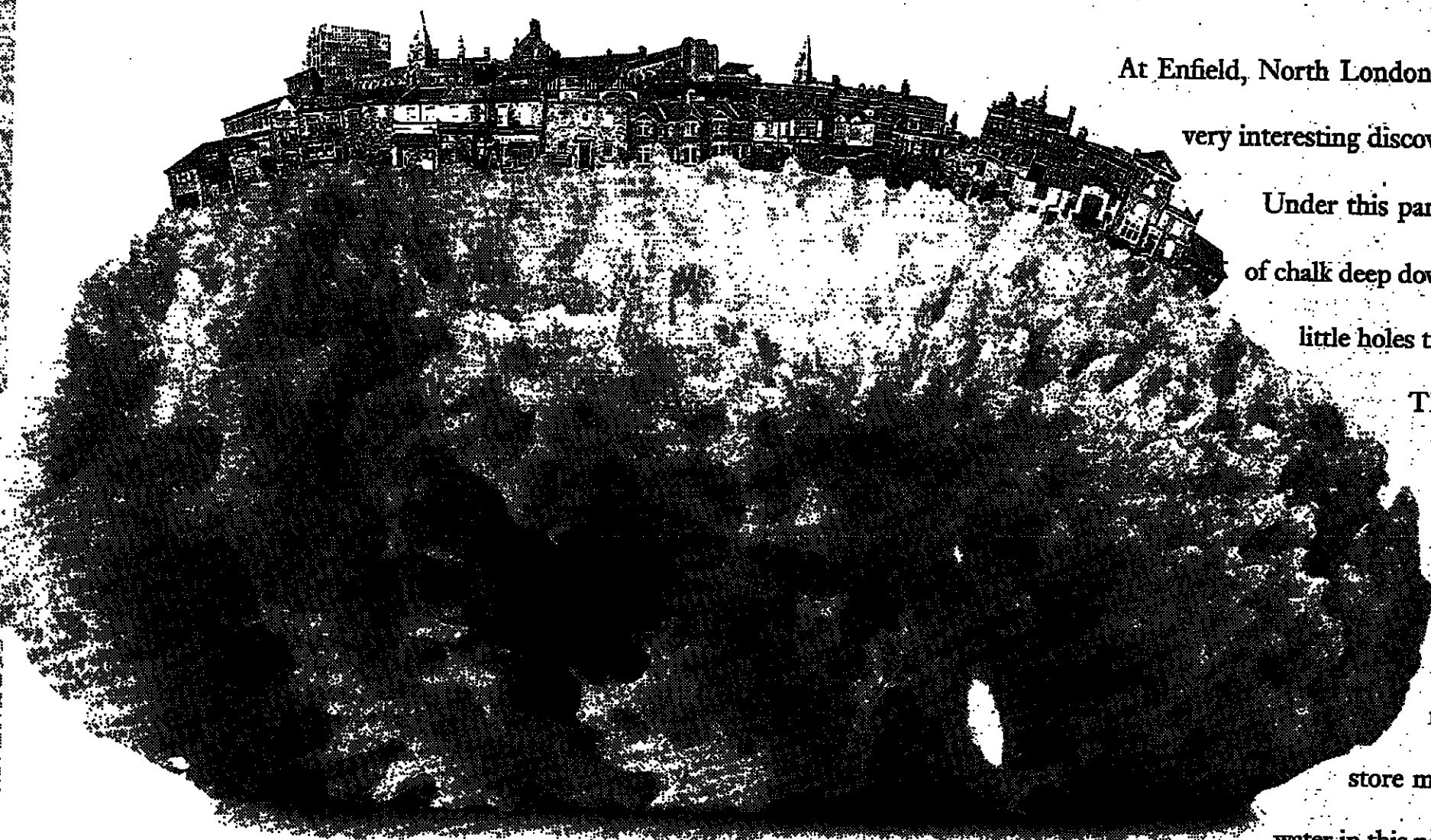
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A flow of good ideas.

Press at risk from privacy law, says Wakeham

By EMMA WILKINS

A Home Office spokeswoman said the Government had no plans for a privacy law. "We have made it clear that the courts need to consider the right to freedom of expression in conjunction with Article 8."

"Our examination entries show that there is a particular problem with some minority instruments, which will have hideous consequences for orchestras eventually. Some children's orchestras are already finding it difficult to find people to play instruments such as the french horn or the bassoon." Part of the problem lies in the provision of school music, the board believes. The shift in control of music teaching from local authorities to



FROM THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

lied to recommend several measures to make teaching more attractive, says the Government should "seriously consider" writing off new teachers' student debt on condition that they stay in the profession.

The Government has already said that it would

Other financial incentives could include paying trainees, possibly by backdating some of their first year's salary. The committee is also expected to call for an investigation of teachers' workload and for better support from non-teaching school staff.

The board's report will show that the number of lessons given by teachers in their own homes has held up well since 1994. The number of pupils to each teacher has, however, declined.

Arts, Page 18, 19

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A BBC spokeswoman said yesterday: "If the *Six O'Clock News* does change its format in any way it will be in response to what the viewers have indicated they want."

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The general words selected draw a time chart of a terrible and wonderful century. Some of the words are already historical and obsolete, such as *Chieftan* and *Labour Party*. Choosing words of the century is necessarily problematic. But the conclusion is sound: we preserve the present for the future every time that we open our mouths.

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Jiang admits to 'mistakes' on massacre

WHAT appeared to have come close to an apology for the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, made by President Jiang Zemin at Harvard University on Saturday night, could have serious implications for Chinese politics, not least for Li Peng, the Prime Minister and No 2 in the leadership, diplomats in Beijing said last night.

It was the unpopular Mr Li who signed the martial law order that sent troops and tanks into the square on June 4, 1989, to crush a mainly student-led pro-democracy movement, and it would be he who would be most vulnerable in any reassessment.

Mr Jiang's astonishing remarks, that "mistakes" may have occurred, represent the first time a Chinese leader has publicly admitted that the crackdown could have been an error. His statement could also highlight the issue of hundreds of human rights activists languishing in Chinese jails and labour camps, among whom are Wei Jingsheng, nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, and Wang Dan, a former student leader.

Mr Jiang, 71, asked why he did not go out more to meet the Chinese people and about the violent suppression at Tiananmen, told his Harvard audience that he did go around meeting ordinary Chinese. He then said: "It goes without saying that naturally we may have had shortcomings and even made some mistakes in our work. However, we have been working on a constant basis to improve our work."

It was unclear whether Mr Jiang had undergone a Damascus-road conversion regarding the massacre or whether he was replying to a question in general terms. A diplomat in Beijing said: "It could be he misheard the question, but he is a seasoned political player and it is unlikely he would make such a mistake." He added: "He



A near-apology by the President, left, could indicate a calculated move against Li Peng, China's No 2. James Pringle writes in Beijing

could be making a calculated move against Li Peng.

Days before, Mr Jiang provoked a protest from President Clinton when he said at a joint White House press conference that Beijing's decision in suppressing what it calls a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" had been correct. The action had ensured "political stability" and enabled the "reform and opening-up we have today". But President Clinton protested that, on human rights, China was "on the wrong side of history".

On Saturday Mr Jiang admitted that, since his arrival in Hawaii, he had a better understanding of American democracy. "It is more specific than my previous understanding," he said, adding that he was aware of the noisy demonstrations for a free Tibet and free Taiwan. "Although I am 71, my ears work well and while I was giving my speech I heard voices from loudspeakers. The only thing I could do was speak louder."

A Western diplomat said: "It could be that Jiang has taken in something during his visit. Maybe, after Clinton's lecture and the protests, he felt embarrassed by China's headline position on Tiananmen."

Observers note that, since most children of China's top leaders have been educated in America or Australia, they presumably have had some input at home on Western attitudes towards Beijing's human rights record. Yesterday,

analysts recalled that, just before September's 15th Communist Party Congress, Zhao Ziyang, the former party chief, had called in an open letter for a review of the Tiananmen massacre. Mr Zhao was ousted at the time of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations for appearing to sympathise with the student cause and cast out into the political wilderness.

Next to Mr Li, the Chinese leader most implicated in the massacre is Chen Xitong, the former Mayor and party chief of Beijing. He is being investigated for alleged corruption.

Mr Jiang's observations at Harvard come at a time of confusion in Chinese politics, with the apparent removal, at the recent party congress, of Qiao Shi, chairman of China's parliament and the leadership No 3 who, despite his security background, was seen as a relative liberal in the Chinese context.

Some envoys believe that Mr Qiao is not accepting his demotion quietly. Mr Li could likewise be expected to fight any review of the Tiananmen massacre, in which hundreds of Chinese, mainly students, died. During Mr Jiang's absence, both Mr Li and Mr Qiao have received substantial exposure in the official Chinese press, indicating Mr Jiang's hold on power is not as absolute as was that of Deng Xiaoping, the architect of the economic reforms, who died in February.



A Romanian street girl in an outfit made of plastic bottles, caps and corks during a fashion show in Bucharest to raise money for 1,500 homeless children in the capital. The outfits, inspired by their daily lives, were made by the youngsters

Yeltsin pledge to heal dispute with Japanese

By Richard Beeston

RUSSIA and Japan yesterday pledged to resolve, by the turn of the century, a bitter territorial dispute which has left the two Pacific powers technically at war for the past 52 years.

Speaking in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk after an informal weekend meeting, President Yeltsin and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, vowed to settle the thorny question of the Kurile Islands, thereby formally ending hostilities dating back to the Second World War.

"The President and I have agreed to make maximum efforts to conclude a peace treaty by 2000," the Japanese leader said, after two days of talks interspersed by a fishing trip and friendly bear hugs from his Russian host. Mr Yeltsin said that the meeting was held in a "very good atmosphere" and vowed that Russia would make a greater effort to "understand Japan and the Japanese people".

Russia badly needs Japanese investment to help it to bolster its economically depressed Far East, while Japan would like to tap into the huge natural resources of Siberia, particularly oil and gas reserves. Both nations are also eager to strengthen ties in the face of an increasingly powerful and strident China.

After the opening day of their talks, the two leaders unveiled their "Yeltsin-Hashimoto plan", which calls for co-operation in trade, energy and transport. The two sides have also promised to boost military relations by holding joint exercises. There will also be a hotline installed between Moscow and Tokyo.

However, the smiles, handshakes and the pledge to end half a century of deadlock will come to nothing if the leaders are unable to make any genuine progress in tackling the Kuriles sovereignty issue.

The four sparsely inhabited volcanic Pacific islands north of Japan were seized by Soviet troops on Stalin's orders in the closing days of the Second World War. Although the

islands provide Russia with rich fishing grounds and a useful passage point for submarines, they are among the most remote and neglected areas of the country. After an earthquake in 1994, Japanese rescue teams were the first to respond and most of the 20,000 inhabitants rely on Japan for supplies and access to the outside world.

While no details emerged of what compromise may be achieved in the coming two years, the leaders and their aides were careful not to say anything that might antagonise nationalist forces at home.

Efforts to improve relations and resolve the territorial dispute will be handled jointly by Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Boris Nemtsov, the young Deputy Prime Minister.

Yesterday Mr Nemtsov avoided mentioning Russia's claim to the islands and emphasised that Moscow was anxious to encourage as much Japanese economic input into developing the Kuriles as possible. It is suspected that joint economic development, if successful, could lead to co-administration of the area.

The only detailed plan for settling the dispute has been put forward by Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin's former National Security Adviser. He suggested in September that the two sides could sign a treaty whereby the islands' sovereignty would be transferred to Japan if, after a 20-year trial period, the islanders voted for the change in a referendum.



Iranian President backs dissident against militant Islam

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA



Soroush: challenge to hardline clerics

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran has won a significant battle against Islamic hardliners by securing an exit visa for the country's leading intellectual dissident, who advocates less clerical involvement in government.

After an intense behind-the-scenes wrangle, Professor Abdolkarim Soroush was allowed at the eleventh hour to fly to Cyprus to

address a conference on political Islam and the West. Professor Soroush, who studied at London University, said in Nicosia: "I am trying to give a new understanding of the content of Islam to make it more compatible with the age we are living in."

In doing so, the mild-mannered philosopher is challenging what clergy insist is their God-given right to be the sole interpreters of Islam, an argument they use to justify their rule. "There cannot be any

official interpretation of Islam, there cannot be any official class of interpreters of Islam," the professor said, adding that the clergy should "make room for others to have and put forward their own interpretations".

Professor Soroush, 52, has been dismissed from his teaching post at a research institute and banned from speaking at Tehran University, where one of his last lectures, attended by thousands, was disrupted by a mob of bearded street

bullies brandishing a noose. Most newspapers dare not mention his name, let alone publish his articles. His passport was confiscated in July. Yet many of his 20 books remain bestsellers.

"He is making people think about the philosophical foundations of Islam and how people can wed Islam and democracy," said Dr Farideh Farhi, a lecturer in politics and international affairs at Tehran University. The Iranian Foreign Ministry had assured the

organisers of the Cyprus conference that Professor Soroush would be able to attend. But others, said to be close to the office of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, objected even though Mr Khatami and the former President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, supported the professor. The President finally got his way, but only after the conference had begun.

"You can take it as a healthy sign," said Professor Soroush, who acknowledged that the President

said to be a personal friend, had played an important role in securing the return of his passport.

Things were looking up for intellectuals since Mr Khatami's surprise victory six months ago, but the President faced "formidable" challenges, said the reclusive professor, who has no political ambitions: "He knows what political freedom or intellectual freedom means, and he knows that there are many enemies there to restrict these freedoms."

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هڪڙا من رلاصل

Tears for Stalin's forest victims

Richard Beeston in Sandormokh, northern Russia, sees relatives free for the first time to grieve at the mass burial site of 9,000 killed in the Great Terror

THE fresh snow muffled the steps of the elderly men and women as they held on to each other for balance and emotional support.

When they saw the roughly hewn wooden crucifixes in the Karelain pine forest, the mourners halted. The women were the first to break. After decades of burying their grief, tears welled in their eyes. Some howled in pain. Others dropped to their knees on the ground where 9,000 of their fathers, brothers and uncles lay buried a few feet below.

Antonina Kurgopolov, standing where her father, stripped down to his underwear, was shot once in the snow and was shot once in the back of the head by an NKVD officer, was transported back 60 years to a night which still haunts her family.

Now 79 and accompanied by her sisters and brother, she vividly recalled the madness of Stalin's repression. "My father was a simple local policeman. One night there was a knock on the door. The men who came in knew him. They apologised for what they were doing, but explained that he was on the list that day. He did not resist, but went quietly. His death destroyed our family, but at least we can now come to his graveside."

The story of what happened in these forests in 1937 and 1938 is not unique. By conservative estimates, 14 million people were disposed of in similar woodlands across the



A mourner at the site of the woodland graves

former Soviet Union. What makes this location exceptional is that the dead have not been forgotten.

After years of searching, volunteers for the Russian Organisation Memorial located the killing ground this summer after a senior local police officer helped to track down the graves in secret government archives. The documents revealed that the dead included 1,111 inmates of the former prison on Solovetsky Island, where the cultural and intellectual elite of the 1920s and 1930s had been incarcerated. 4,500 prisoners used as slave labour on the White Sea Canal, a commercially useless waterway which cost the lives of 200,000 men

and women, and 3,500 local Karelians, rounded up at the height of the purges.

The mourners reflected the diversity of the victims. Orthodox and Roman Catholic priests and Baptist ministers prayed beside the children of Ukrainian intellectuals and leaders from Tartarstan.

After the collapse of communism there was an initial flurry of interest in exposing the truth about Stalin's Great Terror. But then, through government apathy and lack of funds, little was done to confront the secret which lurks in every Russian family.

Although there are thousands of mass grave sites in Russia, only about a quarter have ever been identified, and in some regions local authorities, usually Communist-dominated ones, have deliberately hampered the efforts of those seeking to expose the past.

But that could be changing. The interest generated by the discovery of victims at Sandormokh led the local town of Medvezhegorsk, itself built by prisoners working on the White Sea Canal project, to create a museum devoted to those who died in Karelia. In the Urals a similar move is under way to preserve Perm 36, the last gulag to hold political prisoners in the Soviet Union, as a museum.

The efforts may be modest, but the importance of keeping the memory of the victims alive is more than simply an argument over history.

This week in cities across Russia, Communist diehards will unfurl their red banners, dust off their portraits of Lenin and Stalin and take to the streets to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Ask any of the marchers about Stalin's Great Terror and they are unapologetic. Western historians are blamed for inflating the number of those who died in the purges and Stalin's record is justified by the defeat of Nazi Germany and the discipline of Soviet life.

Just as mourners were gathering last week to remember Stalin's slaughter, Communist deputies in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, passed a motion praising the



A woman clutching photographs of one of the 9,000 victims of Stalin who were buried in a Karelian forest after being shot during purges in 1937 and 1938

"Great October Socialist Revolution" and insisting that Bolshevik ideals were still "alive in the hearts of millions of compatriots".

In a country where economic reforms have impoverished millions and led to social chaos and criminalisation, the

prospect of another "hard man" returning order and self-respect to the nation is growing in appeal.

The danger of history repeating itself was spelt out in a recent article by Aleksandr Yakovlev, the former liberal adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev. "Power has not changed. It has been eroded," he wrote in an article for the weekly *Obshchaya Gazeta*. "Instead of one dictator, we have a million, the great pile of petty bosses, starting with traffic cops. The repressive apparatus is preserved intact."

Baron leads Auschwitz slaves' fight

As the Second World War stuttered to a close, a group of brave young women stole gunpowder to ignite a rebellion at Auschwitz. The uprising was doomed, but a crematorium was blown up with homemade grenades.

In early 1985, Baron Klaus von Munchhausen was holidaying in Israel when he met some of the would-be insurgents: Jewish women who had worked as slave labourers in the munitions factory, Weichsel Metall Union. They told him of their present poverty and their lack of recognition from the German Government. The young German academic, whose own mother had died in the camp, took up their cause.

On Wednesday, a Bonn court will decide whether the 21 elderly, often infirm women have the right to a German pension. If the court rules in their favour, the issue of compensating slave labourers will be firmly on the political agenda.

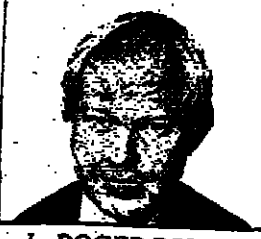
Bonn can reckon on individual claims from at least 30,000 survivors. It is an expensive proposition, although not as high as the authorities calculate — the baron says that a fair settlement for all Third Reich slaves would probably come to around DM1.5 billion (£521 million) — and an embarrassing one.

The authorities will have to explain why, for more than 52 years, they have resisted paying out not only for slave labourers but also for other marginalised groups killed and tortured in the camps: Communists, Gypsies and homosexuals.

Germany, to the outside observer, seems to have made an exemplary job of coming to terms with its past. Over the years it has paid, in state-to-state agreements, more than DM100 billion in recompense.

But open chequebooks do not necessarily correspond to open hearts. It is not generally known how tough the negotiations have been to extract compensation from Germany. German

INSIDE GERMANY



by ROGER BOYES

companies — Allianz, which insured Auschwitz against fire damage, Degussa, which smelted Nazi gold, the banks which profited from Jewish confiscations, the car, steel and electronics companies that grew fat on slave labour — have been notably reluctant to dwell on their record during the Third Reich.

The whole system has been intent on denying the existence of the "Union Girls" — as they call themselves. The baron approached the successor of the munitions company, which now makes bicycle dynamos; it denied any link with the wartime firm.

The baron then turned to Bonn — legal successor to the Third Reich — and the trouble began. Slave labourers were prevented from making successful claims by the 1953 London Debt Agreement, which ruled compensation could be awarded only after a peace treaty had been signed. The baron argued that unification changed the situation. The courts seemed to agree.

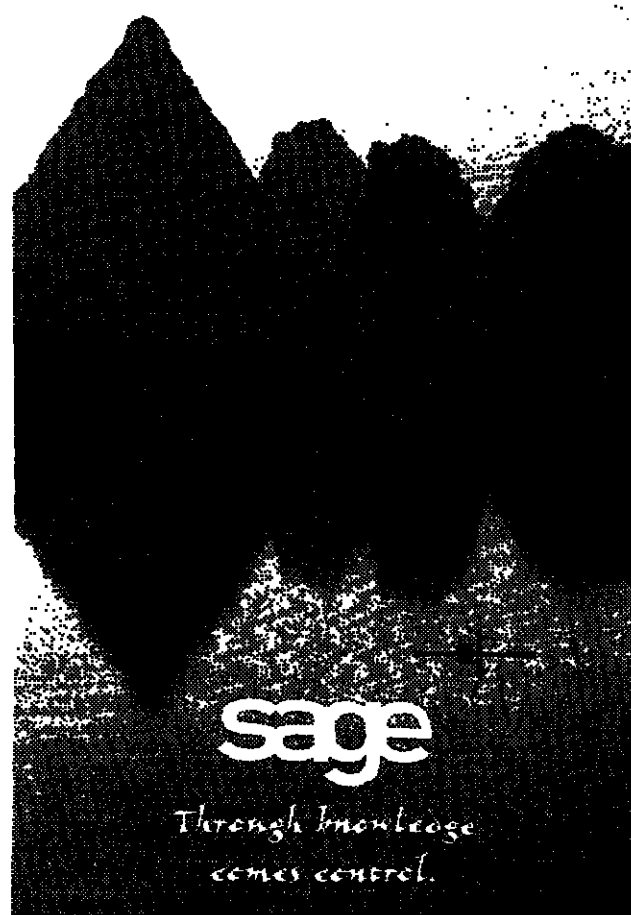
Government lawyers had other objections: slave labourers did not have proper work contracts; incredibly, there was some doubt about whether the labourers were persecuted. Hearings were delayed for years.

Baron Munchhausen is descended from the fabled 18th-century liar but he is an honest man. Germany, fortunately, has many such individuals and they are determined to give a face to the wartime victims.



Slave labourers on the White Sea Canal, a project which cost the lives of 200,000 men and women

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*From an independent survey, circulated in June 1994 by the faculty of IT of the ICAEW.

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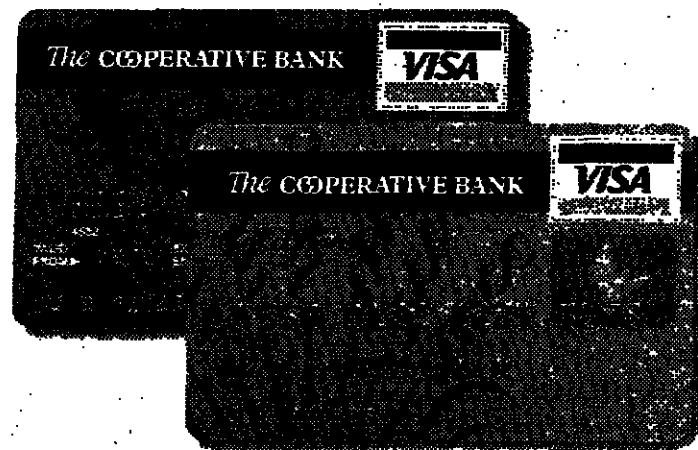
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Drivers reject deal and start blockade

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

STRIKING French lorry drivers began blockading roads, border crossings and fuel depots across France yesterday after they rejected a partial deal hammered out at the last minute by union leaders and some haulage bosses.

Most rank-and-file drivers voted against the eleven-hour deal and the long-threatened strike swung into action, with scenes grimly reminiscent of last year's conflict which paralysed the country for 12 days, severely affecting foreign hauliers and denying the French economy.

A marathon negotiating session, boycotted by both the UFT, the larger of the two employers' association, and the powerful Communist-led CGT truckers' union, ended yesterday morning with a tentative agreement on paper.

The outline deal, offering lorry drivers a 5 per cent wage rise, was rejected by most grassroots union members, who said it failed to go far enough. Many drivers receive

only the minimum wage, amounting to £700 a month for 250 hours' work. One of the key union demands is for a guaranteed minimum of £1,000 for 200 hours a month.

Strikers at the Pétrole d'Amberg fuel depot, one of the largest in France, publicly burned copies of the accord and vowed to continue a blockade indefinitely. "Last night saw some movement, but this was not sufficient to defuse the situation," said Roger Poletti, the fiery leader of the Force Ouvrière union.

The UFT, representing 80 per cent of employers and most of the larger French haulage firms, also rejected the deal. The strike was due to go into effect last night, but many protesting truckers did not wait for a formal declaration and began blockading fuel depots at Rouen, La Rochelle, Sète, Lyons and Bordeaux even before the latest deal was put to a vote.

Since lorries are banned from French roads at week-

ends, the strikers instead used their cars to create the first traffic barricades. French police made no attempt to prevent the illegal blockades.

Union leaders said the strike action would aim to cause as little disruption as possible to motorists, and would instead target border points, foreign and French trucks, fuel stocks and road haulage companies. "Traffic filters" on main roads, designed to allow cars to pass but not HGVs, are expected to cause serious traffic jams.

The queues that had been forming outside petrol stations over the weekend grew dramatically, amid reports that some stations were rationing fuel or had run out. Hundreds of French motorists drove across the Belgian border to stock up on petrol after stations in northern France ran dry. There were reports of panic-buying at supermarkets as people prepared for the "long and tough action".

On Saturday Lionel Jospin,

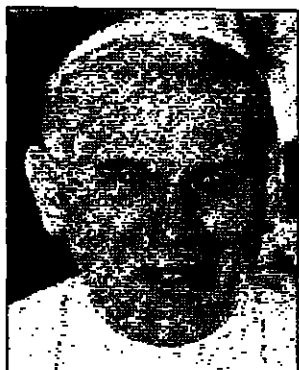
the Socialist Prime Minister, intervened in the dispute by announcing an £80 cut in the annual tax on lorries. M Jospin said that "the Government and the whole country expect an attitude of dialogue" from both sides.

Help lines: Motorists planning to drive through France or caught up in the expected chaos can ring the following numbers set up by the police traffic-monitoring service: Rennes (North-West): 02 99 33 33 33; Lille (North): 03 20 47 33 33; Metz (North-East): 03 87 63 33 33; Paris (Central): 01 48 99 33 33; Lyons (East-Central): 04 78 54 33 33; Bordeaux (South-West): 05 56 96 33 33; Marseilles (South-East): 04 91 78 78 78.

The Road Haulage Association in Britain has set up a hotline, manned from 10am to 5pm UK time during the strike. The number, from Britain, is 01932 841515.



Malcolm Chidgey, a British lorry driver, checks the latest road situation with his head office as he waits at the Calais freight terminal last night before deciding whether he could proceed to his destination in France



The Pope had taken "an historic step"

Rome rabbi welcomes 'mea culpa'

Rome: The Chief Rabbi of Rome, Elio Toaff, said yesterday the Pope's acknowledgement that Roman Catholics bore responsibility for the persecution of Jews over the centuries, including the Holocaust, was "an historic step" (Richard Owen writes). He said it would have "an enormous resonance" for the Christian-Jewish dialogue.

The Pope told a three-day international seminar at the Vatican on the "Christian Roots of Anti-Semitism", which ended on Saturday, that many Christians had failed to offer "spiritual resistance" to Nazi atrocities. This had contributed to the atmosphere in which the Holocaust, or Shoah, took place.

He also said that many in the Christian world, although "not the Church as such", had interpreted the New Testament erroneously and unjustly in an anti-Jewish spirit by blaming Jews for the death of Christ. He concluded that anti-Semitism was "to be condemned absolutely".

In Jerusalem, Rabbi David Rosen said the Pope's "mea culpa", although important, did not go far enough.

In his All Souls Day address yesterday, the Pope made a point of recalling "those who died in Auschwitz and other concentration camps".

Leading article, page 21

Employers attack Prodi agreement with unions

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian Prime Minister yesterday described his Government's weekend deal with the trade unions on pensions reform as "a decisive step toward balancing Italian public finances, and towards entry into the European single currency". Hailing the agreement as "historic", Professor Romano Prodi said: "No one won and no one lost."

But employers and the centre-right Opposition denounced the package as the result of the "fine print" of Signor Prodi's emergency deal with his parliamentary hardline Communist allies two weeks ago. Confindustria, the employers' association, said Signor Prodi had bowed to Communist Refoundation's opposition to tough welfare structural reforms.

Silvio Berlusconi, the centre-right leader, said the deal had kept the Centre-Left in power at the price of long-term damage to the economy. Signor Prodi, whose lower-house majority depends on Communist Refoundation's votes, threatened to resign in September when the hardliners withdrew support for his draft 1998 budget.

But Communist Refoundation and the Centre-Left agreed to an eleven-hour budget package which modified planned cuts in the bloated state pensions sector and incorporated Communist Refoundation's demands for a statutory 35-hour working week by 2001.

The deal announced yesterday aims to cut almost £1.5 billion from the pensions bill. The retirement age in the private sector rises from 53 to 54, and is to rise in stages to 57 after 1998. But blue-collar workers are exempted from pensions reform, a key Communist demand.

Swiss Guard loses chief in pay crisis

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE Swiss Guard, the Pope's personal protection force, is facing a recruitment crisis because of low pay, and is having difficulty finding a new commander. *Il Messaggero* newspaper reported yesterday.

Colonel Roland Buchs, with the Swiss Guard for 20 years and its commander for 15, stepped down at the weekend, a month before his commission was due to end. Vatican officials denied there had been any "differences" and said Colonel Buchs — married with

five children — had taken 30 days' accumulated leave.

But his premature departure leaves an embarrassing gap. During the summer ten potential commanders were interviewed, but all refused the job, allegedly because they felt they could not make ends meet. The commander's pay was known to be £12,000 a year when Colonel Buchs took over. The 120 guards themselves get £8,500 a year. They enjoy subsidised food and tax-free shopping within the walls of the Vatican.

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مكتبة من راصيل

Raids on Saddam backed in Congress

Iraq has again raised the stakes write James Bone and Michael Evans

AMERICAN congressional leaders supported military force against President Saddam Hussein yesterday after three American members of a United Nations weapons inspection team were turned back when they arrived in Iraq on a flight from Bahrain. It was the second time the three inspectors had been ordered out. The White House accused Iraq of showing "blatant disregard" for the UN Security Council.

Six non-Americans working for the UN Special Commission, charged with investigating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, who were also on the plane, were allowed to re-enter the country.

Iraq, which has given all American inspectors until Wednesday to leave the country, is now facing the possibility of further airstrikes or Tomahawk cruise missile attacks unless it backs down. One fear is that Saddam has concealed a large stockpile of

nerve agents that could be used for biological warfare. It is believed that the UN inspectors were close to finding stocks of VX liquid nerve agent — ten times more dangerous than the nerve gas sarin — when Saddam announced the expulsions.

Trent Lott, the Senate Republican leader, said the US ought to take "whatever actions are necessary" to force Saddam to comply with the UN resolutions. "I suspect that something will have to be done relatively soon," he said. Asked if this could include



Iraqi demonstrators tearing up an effigy of Uncle Sam in a protest in Baghdad at the weekend over the latest confrontation with the UN

military action, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said: "Absolutely."

Appearing with Mr Lott and Mr Gingrich on the NBC programme, *Meet the Press*, Richard Gephardt, the House Democratic leader, said that the only thing Saddam seemed to understand was "action, and that's what's going to have to happen."

The White House said the Security Council was contin-

uing to study the options after last week's Iraqi order for US members of the arms inspection team to leave.

Barry Toiv, the deputy White House press secretary, said: "Iraq continues to show blatant disregard for the UN Security Council and its resolutions."

In Baghdad, Iraqi officials said American inspectors would not be allowed to participate in weapons checks

scheduled to resume today. Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said: "There will be no Americans inside Iraq (taking part) in inspections. There is no retreat from our decision until things are put in order."

The possibility of military action against Saddam has been given full backing by Britain, although Arab countries in the Gulf have shown little enthusiasm. Yesterday a Foreign Office spokesman

said: "The UN Secretary-General has sent an envoy to Baghdad to try to resolve this matter, but nothing is being ruled out."

When the Americans arrived yesterday at al-Flabbiya airport, about 60 miles north-west of Baghdad, they were turned away "in a polite way", a diplomat in Baghdad said. "As soon as the plane landed, they were asked to return to Bahrain," the diplomat said.

Richard Butler, the head of the UN arms inspectors, said last week that he would order his experts, including the Americans, to resume inspections today. He had halted the inspections after Iraq announced the ban on the UN members. Diplomats expect a showdown when UN inspectors in Iraq, including some of the seven Americans still in the country, resume field operations.

Second Oklahoma bombing suspect on trial

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE second trial over the Oklahoma City bombing begins in Denver today with the defence brandishing the simple slogan: "Terry Nichols wasn't there."

Mr Nichols, 42, faces the same charges as Timothy McVeigh, his former US army friend who was sentenced to death in June for the worst-ever terrorist attack on American soil. The trial is seen as a test of the Government's success in rooting out the threat from "home-grown" terrorists linked to the right-wing militia movement.

Judge Richard Matsch has told jurors that, despite McVeigh's conviction, Mr Nichols begins his trial for conspiracy, murder as the use of a weapon of mass destruction with a "clean page".

No one disputes that Mr Nichols was at home in Kansas on April 19, 1995, when the blast destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City with the loss of 168 lives. Neighbours even report seeing him working in his backyard.

The prosecution insists, however, that Mr Nichols plotted that attack with McVeigh, and will present evidence that the two men used aliases to buy and store bomb-making materials together, and robbed a quarry of explosives. At Mr Nichols' home, police found bomb-making equipment and a receipt with McVeigh's fingerprint for the purchase of 1,980lb of ammonium nitrate, the chemical to build the Oklahoma City bomb.

The defence team will try to convince the jury that Mr Nichols withdrew from planning the attack months before it was carried out and was tricked into lending McVeigh his blue pickup truck. The defence seems prepared to argue that the attack was part of a conspiracy involving not just McVeigh but others still unknown. Defence witnesses are expected to testify they saw McVeigh with unidentified "John Does" near Oklahoma around the time of the blast.

Christian Right takes shine off Republican golden girl



Whitman: damned for being "too liberal"

THE former Republican golden girl, Christine Todd Whitman, is struggling to hold on to her position as Governor of New Jersey as the countdown begins to tomorrow's local elections.

Her re-election, once expected to be a landslide, is too close to call, and is a symbol of the damage wrought by two years of vicious infighting within the Republican Party.

But overall in Tuesday's elections for a host of local and state positions across the country, Republicans look set for victory by returning to their traditional message of tax cuts. On campaign spending, they are also decisively outgunning Democrats, hamstrung by the campaign finance scandals, which have left the party with a \$15 million (\$9 million) legal bill and have deterred big donors.

A clean sweep of the biggest races



New Jersey's Governor could lose in local polls tomorrow, but across America tax-cut conservatives look set for victory, reports Bronwen Maddox in Washington

would give Republicans a boost ahead of next year's mid-term elections, when Democrats and labour unions plan an offensive to win back the House of Representatives.

Four years ago, when Ms Whitman ousted New Jersey's Democratic Governor, she was seen as a "poster girl" for the "Republican revolution", the backlash against President Clinton's chaotic early years in office. As she soared to prominence, she was talked about as a potential vice-presidential candi-

date, someone who could bring women voters back to the fold.

But the vicious crossfire within her party, and the growing domination of social conservatives, now threaten that glittering future. She has also been confronted at every stop by protesters from the Christian Right, enraged by her recent veto of a ban on the controversial method of "partial birth" abortion for late pregnancies. The latest polls give her about 40 per cent support, just two to four points ahead of an obscure

Democrat, James McGreevey. Although she has cut New Jersey's taxes by a third since her election, voters appear sceptical that the state can afford it, and have been angered by rises in property taxes and car insurance. But, above all, her plight shows that her brand of aristocratic, moderate Republicanism has gone out of fashion. Like William Weld, who stepped down as Governor of Massachusetts only to find his bid for Mexican Ambassador blocked by his own party, Ms Whitman finds herself damned for championing policies that used to be in the party's mainstream but are now seen as "too liberal". Like Mr Weld, she is also resented for her privileged background of fox-hunting, debate balls and family estates.

Elsewhere, however, Republicans are expected to bring home decisive

victories. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who has won widespread support for presiding over a plummeting crime rate, is set for a landslide win over the earnest but plodding Ruth Messinger.

In Virginia, James Gilmore now leads Democrat Don Beyer by 49 per cent to 40 per cent, according to the latest poll, since he promised a cut in the state's deeply unpopular annual car tax. For weeks, the two candidates slugged it out on what they thought was the high ground: abortion, education, affirmative action to help minorities. Then Mr Gilmore hit on the magic bullet: tax cuts.

The apparent success of that formula — tax cuts, a dash of social conservatism and more tax cuts — has been witnessed with delight by congressional Republicans, gearing-up for next year's mid-term elections.

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Secrets – and a sense of power



When Alfred Kinsey's *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male* was published in 1948 it provoked a social revolution. Today *The Times* begins serialising a new biography by James H Jones which reveals that Kinsey was a bisexual who used his methodology to justify his own sexuality

By the 1940s, Kinsey was riding high. From his timorous beginnings as an obscure researcher, he was now the head of his own research institute which enjoyed the backing of the Rockefeller Foundation. But his financial backers had taken on more than they knew. In Kinsey, they thought they had found a metric-minded, Baconian scientist. They saw him as an instrument, a collecting machine who would compile the data others would use to develop social policies and programmes designed to control human sexual behaviour. Instead, they had been co-opted by a genuine revolutionary, a man who intended to use science to attack Victorian morality and to promote an ethic of tolerance.

Sex research was Kinsey's mission, a grand cause that filled his every waking moment. People who visited Kinsey during the 1940s encountered a secular priest, a man whose laboratory was his temple. It was not so much that he preached, which of course, he did. Rather, it was the strength of his messianic impulse, the sense of urgency that filled his voice. Sex research had given this chronic do-gooder a new way to do good, and he attacked it with religious fervour.

The essence of Kinsey's gospel was simple: sexual morality needed to be reformed, and science would show the way. If people knew the facts about human sexual behaviour, he reasoned, one day they would jettison attitudes that had put them at war with their nature and embrace values that treated sexual desires as healthy and wholesome.

To provide this data, Kinsey believed researchers had to divorce science from morality, studying sex with the same rigour that investigators brought to their hard sciences. In the early 1940s, Kinsey set his goal at 100,000 histories. This was an astounding figure. No one in the history of sex research had approached this number. In fact, no previous survey had compiled more than a few hundred case histories.

Early in 1941 Kinsey hired Glenn V Ramsey, an educational psychologist.

There is no evidence that Ramsey knew about Kinsey's private sex life. Not that Ramsey was unusual in this regard. In the years ahead most of the people who worked for Kinsey did not have a clue. Within the staff that knowledge would always be restricted to a handful of close associates whom Kinsey swore to secrecy, both with regard to what they had learnt about his sex life and what they learnt about each other's.

As a result of his experiences in training Ramsey, Kinsey felt he had a better idea of what to look for in interviewers. "What is more important than academic equipment is personality, sincerity and an abundantly sympathetic viewpoint in the interviewer," he wrote in June 1942.

At a minimum, Kinsey expected interviewers to be non-judgmental. What he really wanted, however, were individuals who were accepting.

'He could have blown up the US socially and politically'

both of others and of themselves. To learn whether applicants were "sex shy" Kinsey required them to submit to an interview. "I need a sexual history from the person under consideration and long contact with him in order to become acquainted with his attitudes on a variety of things," he said.

Last but not least, Kinsey was an absolute fanatic on the subject of confidentiality. Exquisitely vulnerable himself, he understood that the majority of human beings at one time or another had done or fantasised about things of a sexual nature they did not wish revealed. Whether significant or trivial, these hidden truths needed to be discovered if science had any hope of mapping human sexuality. And that was why confidentiality had to be preserved at all costs. Without it, subjects would fear betrayal.

Yet in reflecting on what he called Kinsey's "basic rock-like integrity" a close friend remarked: "I think he liked secrets and that their possession gave him a sense of power." Over the years, the friend continued, Kinsey interviewed "political, social and business leaders of the first rank". Had he been inclined to reveal what he had learnt,

"Kinsey could have blown up the United States socially and politically".

Kinsey had a preference for co-workers with certain behavioural items in their histories. Homosexual experience was a definite plus, as Kinsey identified with any man who had this in his record. In fairness to Kinsey, however, he was willing to hire heterosexuals with little or no homosexual experience, provided they were not homophobic.

Given his agenda, Kinsey encountered the ideal candidate in Wardell Pomeroy. In 1941, Kinsey delivered a lecture in South Bend, Indiana, where Pomeroy worked as a psychologist for the Department of Public Welfare.

Pomeroy hung around after the lecture to chat, and Kinsey did what he always did: he asked Pomeroy to contribute his sex history. A day or two later Pomeroy arrived at Kinsey's hotel for an early morning appointment. What happened next was vintage Kinsey. Upon entering, Pomeroy was surprised to find his host undressed and shaving in front of the mirror. Ordinarily, Kinsey kept his appointments with military punctuality, so there was something odd about his not being ready. The suspicion lingers that he wanted to be caught in the nude, perhaps for the delight he took in shocking others or perhaps because he was making a sexual overture. Pomeroy, of medium height, with dark, wavy hair, was handsome enough to be a movie star, and had an engaging personality.

After Kinsey apologised for running late, he got dressed and the interview began. Pomeroy was impressed by the deftness of Kinsey's technique. "I found myself telling him things I had never dreamt of telling anyone else," Pomeroy later wrote. "When we were finished," he continued, "Kinsey told me he was impressed by my attitudes about sex. I appeared to be relaxed, he said, and without fear or unwarranted modesty."

But then Pomeroy was not a modest man, least of all where sex was concerned. Close friends described a man of magnetic charm and a prodigious sexual appetite, utterly relentless in his pursuit of partners of both sexes, though with a decided preference for women. In February 1943, Pomeroy reported for work in Bloomington and his wife and children arrived a few weeks later. Kinsey put Pomeroy to work as soon as he had memorised the interviewing code. As Pomeroy gained experience and improved his interviewing technique, Kinsey



Sex research was Kinsey's mission, a grand cause that filled his every waking moment

gradually exposed him to individuals whose histories presented "special challenges", including prostitutes, sex offenders and underworld figures.

By contrast, Vincent Nowlis was a wartime hire who did not remain long on Kinsey's staff. A man of brilliant intellect, first-rate academic credentials and a firm commitment to research, he arrived in Bloomington in June 1944, accompanied by his wife and their two young sons. Many years later, he would recall that Pomeroy was constantly engaging in sexual banter. Then, too, there was the issue of Kinsey's inordinate interest in the private lives of the staff members. "Kinsey would often talk to me about the sexual activity of others on the staff," Nowlis revealed. Nevertheless, he had no inkling that Kinsey or

anyone else on the staff might be gay, let alone that they might be having sex with one another.

About six months after he joined the staff, however, Nowlis's innocence came to an abrupt end. In October 1944, Kinsey, accompanied by Clyde Martin, Pomeroy and Nowlis, made a trip to Ohio, where they collected histories from juvenile delinquents.

In the course of one such interview, Nowlis became visibly nervous and broke out in a sweat. Word of his reaction got back to Kinsey, who apparently decided that the time had come to "educate" him. That evening Kinsey asked him to come to his hotel room, where Martin and Pomeroy had already assembled.

Decades later Nowlis grew tense and sombre when he related what had happened. Describing what he considered a blatant sexual overture, Nowlis declared: "Kinsey definitely seemed to be setting up some kind of homosexual activity." As near as Nowlis could tell, his boss was offering to provide "seductive instruction" that would involve "learning plus pleasure". At the time, he recalled, only one thought was racing through his head: "Jesus, I'm getting out of here!"

At this point, Nowlis politely declined, bolted for the door, and retreated to his room. Too upset to sleep, he spent the night pondering what to do. By sunrise he had made up his mind to leave Kinsey's staff.

Alfred C. Kinsey, A Public/Private Life by James H. Jones, published on November 12 (Norton, £28)

Kinsey and the gay crowd

ON A FRIDAY afternoon in June 1939, Kinsey taught his last class of the week, got into his car and left Bloomington on a new kind of field trip.

Up to this point, his collection of sex histories consisted of interviews with college students, family members and friends. Yet, even within this small circle, he had managed to concentrate on certain groups by spreading the word that he would be happy to counsel people with sexual problems or individuals who considered themselves on the margins. Kinsey was eager to target more specialised histories still. Now, awaiting him in Chicago, was a man who had promised introductions to the city's gay community.

His quarry was a group of young homosexual males who lived together in a boarding house on Rush Street, a district filled with cafes where people drank coffee into the early hours of the morning. Because a friend of the group had vouched for him, the young men were willing to be introduced to Kinsey and to hear him out.

Overall, things went well. Still, it was difficult to put aside the habits of a lifetime. Kinsey had to use all his powers of persuasion to combat their fears. He assured them that he would never divulge their confidences, all the while stressing that whatever they told him would benefit science. Nevertheless, his harvest of interviews was relatively meagre.

Near the end of June, he returned to Chicago for a second visit. When not interviewing, Kinsey concentrated on making contacts, as he realised that friendship networks would carry him ultimately to all parts of the city, yielding a bonanza of sex histories.

Within a year, he would tell a friend that penetrating Chicago's gay community had largely "been a matter of building up many friendships which bring introductions to their friends". "Snowball interviewing" was the term that social scientists applied to this method. As a means of securing histories, it worked well, but would the

results provide a representative sample of the population? Time would tell.

During the fall term, Kinsey picked up where he had left off in the summer, returning to Chicago as often as his busy teaching schedule permitted. While histories remained the official reason for his visits, Kinsey spent much of his time observing gay life. The Rush Street boys now accepted and trusted him. They outdid one another finding ways to assist him. Serving as his private guide to their hidden world, they introduced him to their friends, got him into gay parties, accompanied him to the theatre, walked him through the city parks and public urinals where gay men "cruised" in search of anonymous sex, and ushered him through the network of gay nightclubs and coffee houses. They paused long enough at each spot for Kinsey to establish contacts that ensured that a new group of men would start the process all over again. Indeed, anyone who did not know better would have thought Kinsey was socialising, not researching.

In truth, Kinsey was socialising. Each trip back to Chicago increased his fascination with gay life. He liked what he saw. As a man who had kept his homosexual desires locked in the closet, he was thrilled to find a colony of men who had the courage to be openly, unabashedly "gay", if only with each other.

From firsthand knowledge and from the histories he had taken to date, Kinsey understood the self-loathing, confusion and pain that was the lot of many homosexuals. The Rush Street subjects, however, showed him a world that provided a haven from social isolation and psychological marginality, a hidden community where group acceptance could magically transform pariahs into human beings. In a society that spurned them, they were somehow managing to laugh, to dance and to love.

From them, Kinsey got his first intimate view of gay life. It warmed his heart.

TOMORROW

Partner swapping at the Institute: how Kinsey tried to create his own sexual Utopia

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Elizabeth hacked at a chicken, all the while smoking a cigarette'

To coincide with the publication of Elizabeth David's best recipes, her biographer Artemis Cooper traces her passion for food

Like most people who bought Elizabeth David's books, I never really thought about where she came from or what she looked like. She wrote with such sureness and authority that she seemed to have sprung, fully armed with her own *batterie de cuisine*, from a casserole washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean.

This authority was, in part, a protection. While she was as keen as any author for her work to be recognised, she resisted all attempts to turn her into a celebrity. She rarely gave interviews, insisting that everything that mattered was already in her books.

In them, she gave generous tribute to her early influences: sometimes people, such as the French family with whom she boarded while a student in Paris, and later Norman Douglas, who inspired her more than anyone else. Often she wrote about books. One of the first she came across was Hilda Leyel's *The Gentle Art of Cookery*. Mrs Leyel's recipes ran towards exquisite veg-

etable purées, desserts scented with cinnamon and rosewater and, for someone young and keen, they provided an intoxicating stimulus. "At the age of 19," Elizabeth wrote, "one is better off having a stab at Mrs Leyel's marmos glacés in half an hour than learning that the real confection involves 16 separate processes."

Yet so much of the young Elizabeth David is not in her books. When she was 20 and learning stagecraft at the Oxford Playhouse in the early Thirties, a cousin recalled that she could not do much more than open a tin of potatoes. Her mother, then in Jamaica, worried about her diet: "I do hope you will try at least to eat nourishing food even if not appetising, as only good food will keep you fit and strong for good work — and if you want to get some Bovril and some plain chocolate, please do so; that French Marmite, if you can get it, is nice..."

Yet Elizabeth did not want to live on chocolate and Bovril. She taught herself to cook, making many mistakes along

the way ("I still remember picking red chillies out of 15lb of plum chutney") and developed a life-long taste for buying old cookery books. By the time she reached Egypt, in 1941, she had mastered the basics, and was familiar with Mediterranean cookery. She found a job running the Ministry of Information reference library, and in 1943 she met Captain Anthony David.

He was a cavalry officer in the Indian Army: a good rider, a skilful mixer of cocktails, and he was mad about her. They married in September 1944, and the letters he wrote to her from Italy give a vivid idea of their life together. "I'm longing to do things with you again, to dance like we did at the Carlton, and go to parties and hear people say how nice you look, to stay at home and mix the drinks while you are giving some unfortunate hell in the kitchen for boiling the artichokes too long. And then to have you erupt from the kitchen and demand your drink as though you hadn't had one for a week..."

They separated in 1949, just as Elizabeth's career was taking off. In later years, she seldom talked of him; and if someone plucked up the courage to ask, she would restrict herself to such remarks as "he had the most beautiful polished boots".

With every article and every

book her reputation grew; and those who had the good fortune to sit at her table took note of what they saw and ate. One friend was astonished to see her plunging her hands into the bowl to toss a salad: "She said it was the only way to ensure that every leaf was properly coated in oil." Another remembered an impromptu dinner, at which all the company was pretty tight. Elizabeth found a chicken in the fridge, dropped it, picked it up, and started hacking it with a cleaver, all the while smoking a cigarette.

There were sniggers about how inedible it would be. Within minutes she had it seasoned and under the grill, and it emerged succulent.

Normally, her meals were prepared with more care. Most of the work was done in advance, in solitude, yet those who did see her were impressed by the economy of effort with which she chopped an onion or kneaded bread.

She rose early, at four or five in the morning, and did much of her writing in her big, white bed. At her side was a Thermos of black instant coffee. By late morning she had done her writing for the day, which was why, for her, lunch was the meal over which to relax and see people, friends. Guests arriving in her kitchen would

find fresh bread, olives, a pat of butter on a white plate, and an open bottle of wine. She would sit at her table with her back to the old gas cooker, occasionally leaning round to glance into the oven, but never losing the thread of the conversation — for conversation, and being with her friends, were important to her.

When the food was ready, it appeared in the earthenware dishes it had cooked in and was served on plain white plates. Elizabeth ate very little and could happily while away the afternoon, sitting in the kitchen and sipping wine, once the meal was over. Like Norman Douglas, she was much attached to that "natural and jovial function to which a dining table is consecrated", and deplored "unseemly haste" in rising.

Would she have wanted a biography? "Over my dead body," she replied when a friend suggested it, yet the archive she left in the hands of her friend and literary executor, Jill Norman, implies that she knew it would be written. She would not have wished to see it; but at least the author would have no excuse for not getting the facts straight.

If there was one thing Elizabeth David could not abide, it was inaccuracy.

Artemis Cooper is currently working on the authorised biography of Elizabeth David.



Guests arriving in Elizabeth's kitchen would find fresh bread, olives, a pat of butter on a white plate, and an open bottle of wine. She sat with her back to the oven, savouring the conversation

RECIPES THAT HOOKED A NATION

Turkish Stuffing for a Whole Roast Sheep

2 cups partly cooked rice; 1 dozen cooked chestnuts; 1 cup currants; 1 cup shelled pistachio nuts; salt; cayenne pepper; 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon; 4oz (120g) butter

Chop the chestnuts and the pistachio nuts finely, mix the other ingredients. Melt the butter and cook the stuffing in it gently, stirring until all the ingredients are well amalgamated. It can also be used for chicken and turkey.

Elizabeth maintained that John Lehmann accepted Mediterranean Food for publication because of this recipe. Some time after the book appeared she learnt that his reader, Julia Strachey, had been so entranced by the impracticality of a stuffing for a whole sheep when the meat ration was only a few ounces a week in postwar Britain that she persuaded him to publish on the strength of it.

Apricot Cheese

Halve the apricots, stone them and steam them until soft. Sieve them. Add 1lb

(450g) sugar to every pint (550ml) of pulp. Cook, stirring frequently, until the puree starts to candy at the edges. Store in jars.

An excellent and useful preserve, better than jam for omelettes and puddings, delicious with unsalted cream cheese, or mixed with whipped cream to make a fool for the winter. The flavour is even better if a few of the stones are cracked and the kernels added to the apricots when sieved. Blanched split almonds can be used instead of apricot kernels.

Cinnamon Ice Cream

Put 1 pint (550 ml) double cream, 4 oz (120g) white sugar and ¼ oz (10g) powdered cinnamon in the top half of a double boiler, or in a bowl fitting into a deep saucepan.

Heat over gently simmering water. Beat together, preferably in a blender, 4 egg yolks and ½ pint (280ml) milk. Amalgamate the two mixtures, and continue the steady cooking until you have obtained a fairly thick custard. Strain into a deep jug or bowl. Chill in the refrigerator before freezing.

Suleiman's Pilaff (one of the most comforting dishes imaginable)

Into a thick pan put three or four tablespoons of good dripping or oil, and when it is warm put in two cupfuls of rice. Stir for a few minutes until the rice takes on a transparent look. Then pour over about four pints (2.25l) of boiling water and cook very fast for about 12 minutes. The time of cooking varies according to the rice, but it should be rather under than overdone.

Meanwhile, have ready a savoury preparation of small pieces of cooked mutton, fried onions, raisins, currants, garlic, tomatoes and pine nuts, if you can get them, or roasted almonds, all sautéed in dripping with plenty of seasoning.

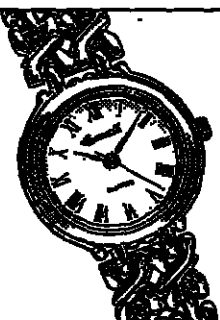
Put your strained rice into a thick pan and stir in the meat and onion mixture, add a little more dripping if necessary, and stir for a few minutes over a low flame before serving.

Serves 4-5.
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For writers the world over, Toronto, Canada's Manhattan on Lake Ontario, is defined by a Literary Festival and summed up in a syllable. Greg Gatenby has run the International Festival of Authors at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre for 18 years. During that time he has netted authors "from six continents" to do readings from their work. The festival runs over ten days in autumn, and builds on the regular readings which feature on the site during the rest of the year.

The range of writers this year included Alfred Kazin, Wallace Shawn and Richard Ford from the United States, Nawad L. Sadawi (Egypt), Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua), Sten Nadolny (Germany), several Brits including Redmond O'Hanlon and Geoffrey Moorhouse, Canadians including Mavis Gallant, Colm Toibin from Ireland, Kate Grenville from Australia...

Each writer reads for half an hour and is interviewed for an

The place where writers of the world unite

hour on stage. All billings are equal. Greg wants the writers to become a collegiate body over that week and from their eeries in the spectacular Harbourfront Hotel, which challenges the US across 50 miles of lake, the writers are marshalled to hospitality rooms and restaurants, rather like a private army conducted with velvet efficiency under the iron will of Greg.

It always comes back to Greg. In his early forties, of average height, built like a Sherman tank, with delivery like a Gatling gun, Greg is a crusader for modern literature wherever it is written, a man with a mission in a country which provokes in him an abrasive pride. I would not be surprised to discover that he had his share of enemies, especially on his home turf where he has had to fight year

in year out to put on government-reclaimed land something as unlikely as a literature festival.

A few weeks before I arrived at this year's festival he ruffled feathers by the tight demand he put on the public availability of writers whom he had shipped in—demands which you could well understand if you've ever tried to run a ship. But the murmurs of foes are overwhelmingly drowned by the recognition everywhere that Greg Gatenby is the business and Toronto has become a world centre.

He is the eldest of a Catholic family who converted himself to great literature as a teenager, beginning to read serious matter, as he says, "for sex". In the library he sought out *Lolita* and D.H. Lawrence for excitement and then tracked down Joyce because



of publicity for the film *Ulysses*, which described it as "the most obscure novel of the 20th century". Greg was after it. The local library did not have *Ulysses* but it did have

James Joyce's earlier book, *Portrait of the Artist*. This for Greg was "an epiphany". Literature became his agenda.

He is clearly a man driven and the fuse was lit by that transfer from an early religious upbringing through works of sexual excitement into literature. When I interviewed Greg I got the whole shooting match. He loves telling stories and loves interweaving politics with social trends, vivid statistics and the works and lives of writers. His talk is shot through with excellent quotes ("The harder I work the luckier I get"—Mark Twain), odd but germane statistics ("Harbourfront makes \$3 million profits a year from car parking") and, most of all, stories, always fond and entertaining, of the writers who have been drawn to Toronto.

What got him going and keeps him going is a mission to record. As a 24-year-old he was devastated to discover, when a leading Canadian writer died, that there was no record of him reading from his own work. How Greg has remedied that!

Harbourfront in the past 18 years under his direction has amassed almost 3,000 sound tapes and a rapidly increasing number of videos of writers. It is already a unique archive which can only grow in value. And the fact that these recordings are taken from live performances—Greg emphasises—gives the work a rare context because you have the audience too, also a record of the times, what they laugh at, what they applaud. He is a man who knows how to

run things and enjoys doing it well. Typically, when at university, he also became manager of his local coffee house, turning it round and giving himself the business experience which made him seem a commercial genius when he landed up in the tentative and gentle world of Canadian arts 20 years ago.

His devotion can be illustrated by the way in which, just a year or two into the job, he combed Canada for older authors whose work had not been recorded and put it down on tape. He was convinced that "Canada needed a cultural history. I'd been brought up thinking that writers grew in other countries like oranges."

His market keenness is illustrated by his hunch that a festival, an event, would with luck bring together those inside and those outside his country in a fusion which would attract publicity and funds and be attractive to the writers themselves. He made it work.

Mistresses of the universe

David Sinclair watches in awe as the Spice Girls bring their campaign for global domination to South Africa

Like villains in a James Bond movie, pop groups often seem hell-bent on achieving world domination. But no Bond villain—or pop group for that matter—has ever pursued that goal with quite the same unswerving dedication and swift success as the Spice Girls.

Over the weekend it was South Africa's turn to get spiced up. After meeting Nelson Mandela and the Prince of Wales, the Girls made a fleeting appearance towards the end of a long and frankly tedious charity gala concert in Johannesburg Stadium on Saturday night. The crowd responded with genuine enthusiasm as the Girls ripped through just three numbers (sung live to backing tapes)—their current single *Spice Up Your Life*, *Say You'll Be There* and *Wannabe*—and then disappeared amid a storm of fireworks, leaving the South African superstar Lucky Dube playing to a markedly depleted audience.

The Girls were then taken by helicopter to the Sun City resort where the following morning they held a press conference and a meet and greet session for 165 competition winners who had been flown in from 19 countries for a brief encounter with their idols. Naturally, a massive amount of media coverage was generated by this necessarily brief encounter. However, the South African trip is merely one more plank in a global marketing campaign of unprecedented dimensions for a group at such an early stage

in their career. In the past five weeks the Spice Girls have visited Granada, Delhi, Singapore, Tokyo, Cologne, Paris, Istanbul and even London. It is not a tour in the conventional sense (all that starts next year) but a round of promotional activities designed to consolidate the Spice Girls' position as the most ubiquitous pop group on the planet. And it is working.

Put simply, there is not a single territory in the world where Western pop music is sold in significant quantities in which the Spice Girls are not one of the biggest, if not the biggest selling act today. Other pop artists, notably the Beatles, Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson, have achieved a comparable level of global success but only over a much longer period of time.

Success on such a grand scale was always the goal of the Spice Girls' 36-year-old manager, Simon Fuller, a somewhat shadowy figure who, thanks to the Spice Girls, has rewritten the book of pop marketing.

Fuller is the driving force behind the unprecedented number of product tie-ins for which the Spice Girls have also become known. The Spice Girls endorse Pepsi, Sony PlayStations, Polaroid cameras and Impulse deodorant. As well as their own dolls, their name is linked with everything from clothing to chocolate bars, bed linen to crockery, crisps, biscuits and balloons. And today sees a further saturation of their image with the launch of 40 Spice Girl taxis in London.

While everyone plays tribute to Fuller's extraordinary chutzpah, the same siren voices that once said the Spice Girls would never make it in the first place now argue that the naked commercialism of this approach suggests a grab-it-while-it's-going strategy, an admission, if you like, of the group's short shelf-life.

In fact the opposite may well be true. According to Fuller's legal expert and right-hand man, Gerrard Tyrrell, the heavy emphasis on product placement is all part of the strategy and Fuller is the first pop manager fully to understand and utilise the power of product tie-ins. "When it comes to getting your name and music across to people, especially outside Britain and America, the record company can only go so far," Tyrrell says. "If you can do a deal which attaches your name to a popular product in a particular territory then they will do your marketing for you."

He cites the example of Chupa Chup lollipops, a popular confectionery with which the Girls have been linked in Spain, where they are now possibly the biggest-selling English-language act ever. Similarly, the tie-in with Pepsi has given the Spice Girls massive exposure in South-East Asia, not an area in which British record companies have traditionally invested a great deal of effort.

The objection to such a rapacious emphasis on commercial exploitation is that it may well lead to an erosion in



Finding the time in her busy schedule to make a little music with her fellow Spice Girls, Mel B sings to the Johannesburg crowd on Saturday

the standards of the group's music, and in some way cheapens the creative process. Do the Spice Girls exist to make music or market lollipops? And, on a purely practical level, the sheer amount of time devoted to setting up these deals and the actual

making of the various advertisements has eaten into the time available for actually making the records. When the first international marketing meetings took place for the *Spiceworld* campaign, the album had not even been recorded, and many people at Virgin

harboured doubts that it would be finished this side of Christmas. In the event the album is released today and it sounds fine.

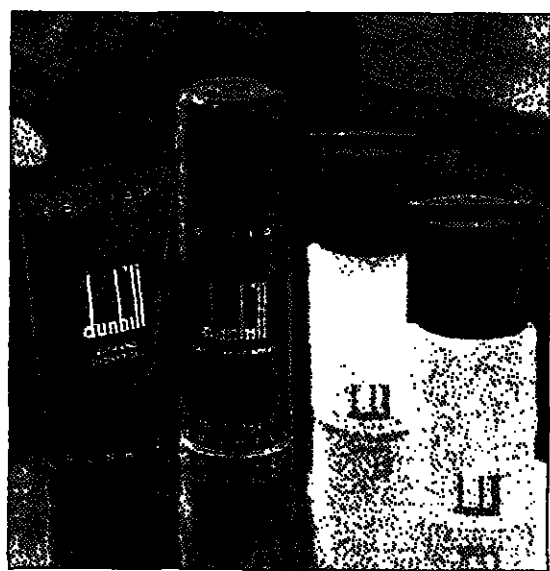
Still, there is a lingering danger of forgetting that the Girls' primary role is to make music. At the Sun City press

conference, among all the good-natured banter about girl power, Nelson Mandela and the benefits of Spice Girls cameras, the group's spin-doctors make every effort to encourage questions about the new album and the Girls speak with enthusiasm about

their favourite tracks. But to criticise them for making lucrative commercial deals and selling millions of records into the bargain is like criticising a leopard for chasing gazelles. And there is certainly no sign of the Spice Girls changing their spots now.

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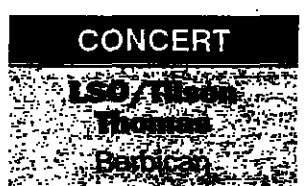
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Spectre of the rose lingers

SHE came to sing only six songs, but the hall was packed and the audience held entranced by every phrase of Berlioz's *Nuits d'été* as delivered by Jessye Norman. Distilled in those accounts of the six songs that make up the cycle is, you feel, a lifetime's experience of conveying the travails of romantic love.

Norman's tone production is no longer as immaculate as once it was, but she gives a complete performance. Arms raised, eyes shining, she holds the moment, like the lingering scent of one of Théophile Gautier's roses, long after the vocal line has ended. The statuesque pose assumed in the lament *Sur les lagunes*



recalls the grief of Dido in *Les Troyens*. The sweeping lines of *Le spectre de la rose* and *L'absence*, too, have an operatic ring, though there is room also for intimacy among the tombstones of *Au cimetière*.

Conducting a sensibly reduced London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas matched Norman with ravishing textures and beautiful phrasing. It was a far cry

from his brilliant, brash rendering of Berlioz in the *Carnaval Romain* overture that opened the programme.

There is more than a touch of vulgarity in Schoenberg's orchestration of Brahms's Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor. In his interpretation of the "Gypsy Rondo" finale, Schoenberg's imagination seems to have run wild: the gypsies bring the circus to town and Tilson Thomas offered us a ringside seat. But in the Intermezzo he realised the light Brahmsian textures, dainty to the fore, complete with sunny Trio.

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Wrecked on the rock of Europe

Paddy Ashdown on the issue that will change our politics for ever

If you want to see the true nature of British politics today, just whisper the words "single currency". It's enough to send shock waves down the spines of both Labour and Conservative Parties. The week before last it was the Government reeling in confusion over British membership of EMU. Last week it was the Conservatives' turn to show the turmoil and division over Europe that now runs, like a San Andreas fault, through their party.

The decision over the single currency is the biggest issue facing our country. It ought to be the subject of a great debate. But it isn't. The papers are, to be sure, full of stories about the single currency: the Chancellor's aides briefing on mobile phones in London pubs; Conservatives queuing to resign from the Shadow Cabinet; battle lines drawn, complete with all their political paraphernalia of dining clubs and factions and plotters in the dark corners of Westminster corridors.

But, when it comes to a debate on the substance of the single currency itself, there is silence during the general election and there remains silence today.

We are, it appears, fascinated by how the single currency affects our politics — but not how it will affect our lives. In other European countries, it is the economics of the single currency which is debated. Here it is the politics. There is a reason for this. Europe, especially in its present guise of the single currency, is the rock upon which the old structure and shape of our politics is breaking. And important though the single currency is, it is not nearly as fascinating as the spectacle of political disintegration.

What is being exposed to view is what has been hidden for nearly a decade now. There are no longer three parties in Britain: there are five. There are two Conservative Parties. One is a right-wing English nationalist party and ought to be led by Michael Portillo, but is having to put up with William Hague instead.

The other is a centre-right, pro-European party and ought to be led by Ken Clarke — or if he finishes his book and can drag himself back from the South of France, Chris Patten. The parties are quite different, hate each other, and are becoming more and more separate by the day.

Like Labour in the early 1980s, the unhappy alliance that is the present Conservative Party seems to believe that it lost the election because it was not extreme enough and it is, therefore, going more Eurosceptic and further to the right. Britain's great "Party of Europe" is now on its way to becoming Britain's "out of Europe" Party.

As with Labour in the 1980s, a second party is forming under the surface. Like Labour then, it has its gang of four: Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten and David Curry. Like Labour then, they are operating as a

faction first. And like the Social Democrats then, some openly describe themselves as Christian Democrats.

And there are two Labour Parties, too. One is a centre-left reforming party — re-shaped and re-fashioned in the image of its leader, Tony Blair. It is in Government, and where it is doing things to modernise the country. The Liberal Democrats are working with it.

The other remains an old Socialist party, as far out of government as the Tories, and has been reduced to little more than a rump in Parliament. But it remains strong on the town and city halls and in the European Parliament. It is quiet now, biding its time. But, under the landslide, the fault lines are still there, ready to open up.

Sooner, rather than later, the underlying shape of British politics is going to break through the old weakened shell of our present political structure and politics will take on a new form. When the change is over, though the names may stay the same, our politics will probably look much more like those on the Continent. A broadly Social Democratic Party, a broadly Liberal Democrat Party, a broadly Christian Democratic Party, a broadly Conservative Party, and a collection of extreme parties out on the wings.

Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and others understand this, I think. They understand that, like Labour before them, the Tories will have to pass through a period of painful catharsis before they realise that elections in Britain are not won at the centre. It may take five years — it may take more. It will almost certainly involve a split of some sort. But in the end the Tories will have to come back to the middle ground. And when they do they will find the familiar figures of Mr Kenneth Clarke and Mr Chris Patten, patiently waiting there for them.

But if Europe is what causes this "realignment" of British politics, then proportional representation is what enables it. Which is one reason why it is so important.

PR for Europe in 1999 provides both the cause and the means for the process to begin. And PR for Westminster at the next election will hasten it on. Which is one of the reasons why electoral reform is so important for Britain.

There is a great project taking shape: the wholesale modernisation of our country. It will take a decade to complete and it will lead to new partnerships, a new politics and a new way of doing things. By the end, with luck and skill, we will have modernised Britain's constitution, its welfare system, its view of itself, its role and shape in the world and the shape of its politics, too.

Europe and the single currency are just the beginning.

The author is leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

The Louise Woodward trial adds to the case for allowing television cameras into English courts

Private prejudice and public justice

In any country the jury system can be protected from this sort of miscarriage of justice, in emotional cases, only if the prosecuting authorities are particularly careful not to frame charges which go beyond the evidence. It is not the job of the prosecutor merely to add another notch to his or her gun; a prosecutor who wins verdicts against the innocent undermines his ability to convict the guilty. The fact that the prosecutors won a verdict from the jury makes their conduct that much the worse. The emotional response they should have guarded against won them the verdict, and indeed Gerard Leane, the lead prosecutor, played up to it in court.

The finding of guilty of second degree murder was therefore a miscarriage of justice. That was not the fault of the trial judge, Mr. Judge. It was the fault of the jury. Judge Zobel, in the O.J. Simpson case, Judge Ito was quite reasonably criticised, but aside from any points which may be taken on appeal, Judge Zobel conducted the trial in a fair and dignified way. The defence counsel obviously now regret not having encouraged Miss Woodward to allow the issue of manslaughter to be considered.

There are legal circumstances, of which this was one, in which plea bargaining, even if it involves a full admission of guilt, is the safest way out. The main culpability, apart from that of the jury, rests with the prosecuting authorities for exaggerating the original charge into one of murder.

difference in the Woodward case is that it was televised; if such a case had arisen in England it would not have been. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has immediately, perhaps with undue haste, intervened to say that he "would not countenance" the idea. He argues that "There is a great risk that the behaviour and judgment of the lawyers, witnesses and the jury itself might be affected by the knowledge that they are participating in a live media event." No doubt that is to

their own opinion; most people in Britain, and many Americans, came to the conclusion that the prosecution had failed to prove its case. Without television they would not have been able to make that judgment.

Indeed, if they had not been televised, the Simpson and Woodward cases would never have raised the public concern that now exists. There is no reason to think that the two verdicts would have been different. The black jurors would still have sympathised with a black celebrity; the Boston mothers would still have sided with a Boston mother. Identification is a powerful psychological influence. Few people would have known how grave the evidence against Simpson was, or how weak the evidence against Louise Woodward.

If justice miscarries in public, there is a fair prospect of the miscarriage being corrected, as in effect it was in the Simpson civil case, and as one hopes it will be in the Woodward case. If it miscarries more or less in private, it may never be right. Without television, Louise Woodward would almost certainly have had to serve the full 15 years in prison; almost everyone would have assumed her guilt.

Certainly the English system of law, in recent years, has no very good record of avoiding miscarriages of justice, or of putting them right at all quickly. In the IRA cases, the main fault seems to have been with the police work; in every jurisdiction there is the same temptation for the

police to distort evidence against suspects they genuinely believe to be guilty. Yet it may be significant that these were Irish suspects being tried before English juries. In Birmingham, after an IRA atrocity, an Irish accent may have been taken, even if subconsciously, as a sign of guilt. In Boston, after the death of a baby, an English accent may make the au pair seem an outsider. Few people are wholly free of ethnic identification at times of emotional stress.

That is why one has to build into the jury system the best possible safeguard. Like political democracy, the jury system rests on the belief that ordinary people, the public, will on average make fairer judgments than the elite. I believe in that. I do not think that juries are as dangerous as professional judges who go wrong. It was not a jury which convicted Dreyfus. Yet the jury system itself implies that justice should be *coram populo*, in front of the people. Private justice cannot be seen to be done.

Nowadays, *coram populo*, effectively means "in front of the television cameras". The Lord Chancellor is right to suggest that television alters what it observes; it has changed the House of Commons, but hardly anyone thinks that the cameras should now be turned out. At decisive moments, television can involve the public in a way no other system of communication can. It is healthy that the American people now know how seriously communal sympathies can colour the responses of juries: such public knowledge is some protection even after the event, and may help to educate jurors for the future. In Britain, our juries have similar prejudices; the difference is that we do not know it. The Lord Chancellor belongs to a Government which constantly abuses the judgment of the people; he is wrong to keep the people's eye, the television camera, out of the English courts.

William Rees-Mogg

Still stuck in the trenches

Both Blair and Hague need to break out of old positions, says Peter Riddell

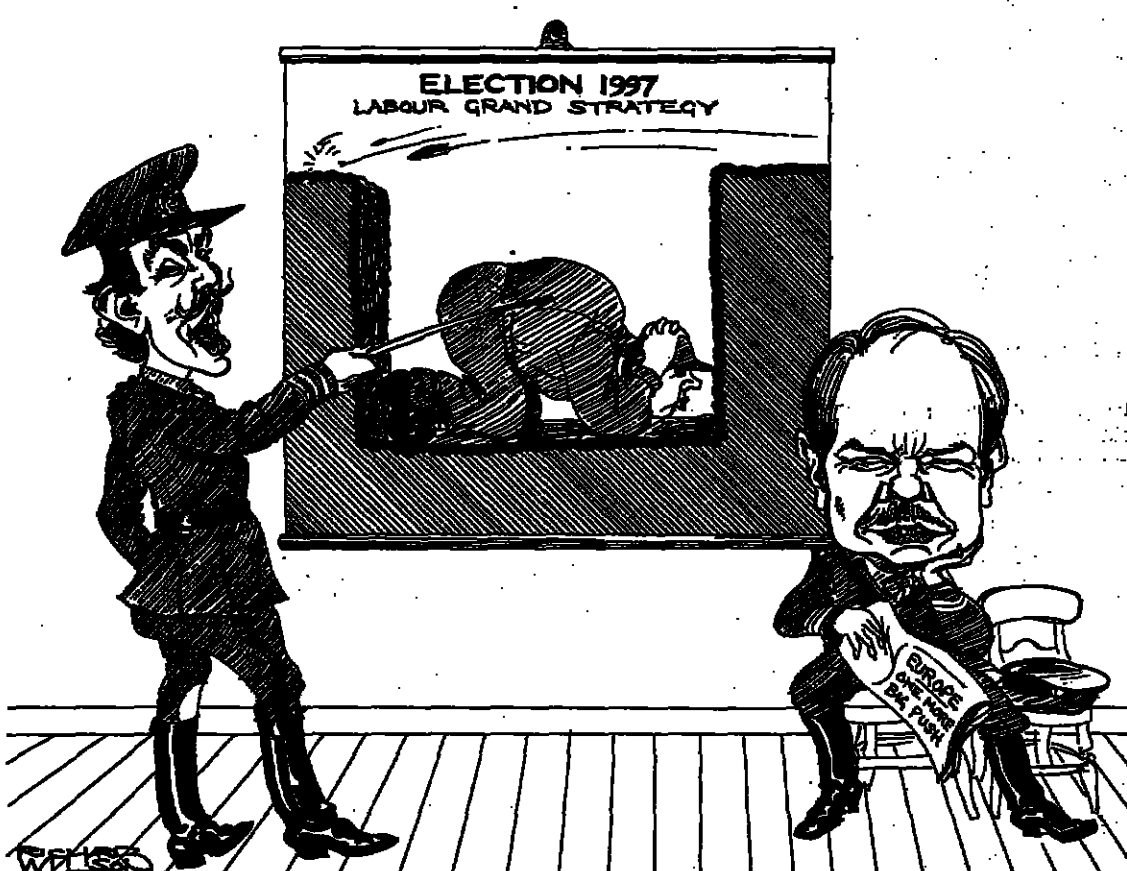
Tony Blair and William Hague are both in danger of missing opportunities — through unnecessary caution and misguided boldness, respectively. This is because of their misreading of what the May 1 election means — or, rather, of the shift in public mood triggered by the change of Government on May 2.

The election is only six months ago but already seems from another age. It was a spectacular result, comparable in scale with 1906 and 1945. That is underlined by the flood of studies that have started to appear notably *The British General Election of 1997*, by David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh, the fifteenth in the Nuffield series that has consistently offered both the best insider account and best analysis. As the authors argue, "if ever a party needed a rest from government, it seemed to be the Conservatives in 1997". But while the Tories provided the opportunity, Labour seized it. "The election was perhaps less a swing to the political left than a vindication of New Labour and the work of the party's modernisers." For the first time, Labour outscored the Tories among the middle-classes and home-owners.

But the new Labour phenomenon presents a paradox: its very freshness and ability to appeal beyond Labour's traditional strongholds raises questions about its durability. Some specific anti-Tory sentiments, about sleaze and the like, will pass, while Labour won its Commons landslide on the third lowest share of the electorate of any postwar government. This is because the electoral system now heavily favours Labour, whose vote is concentrated where it matters to win seats.

Nonetheless, "it is too soon to say whether 1997 will be a realigning election, in which Labour becomes the new majority, and normal party government." In a forthcoming series of lively essays by younger political scientists (*Labour's Landslide*, edited by Andrew Geddes and Jonathan Tongue), Steven Fielding argues that Labour's mandate was for "safe" change. New Labour may have reflected the aspirations of many "Middle Britain" voters, but the party's affiliations of many of its new supporters were weak.

For all the triumphalism of May, these doubts are shared by Labour strategists, including Mr Blair. New Labour is still on trial. It must not only fulfill its five key manifesto



pledges. It must, above all, not breach its promises on spending and income tax. There is much to be said for this "elected as new Labour" view. After so long in Opposition, Labour has to prove it can govern competently.

But something new has happened since May 1. The arrival of a new Government has itself altered popular attitudes. The public is willing to shrug off short-term squalls and to give the Government a fair wind. People trust Mr Blair to an unprecedented extent and would respond to his lead. According to the latest MORI poll in *The Times* last Friday, even the reduced band of Tory supporters (just a quarter of the

public) now rate Mr Blair more highly than Mr Hague over a whole range of leadership qualities.

With his impeccable Commons majority, Mr Blair has a rare, if not unique, chance to be bold. But he has so far been reluctant to take decisions that risk his popularity. He both wants to be liked by everyone and is suspicious that his current ratings are unreal and will not last.

That has led to the Government being more cautious on the timing of monetary union than many Tory pro-Europeans, let alone the Liberal Democrats, the CBI and TUC. Contrary to some responses by sceptics to Gordon Brown's statement a week ago, I believe Mr Blair thinks that Britain should, and will, participate in monetary union is successfully launched. But the arbitrary timetable

of ruling out entry in this Parliament means that he may not be able to exploit the current Tory split.

These divisions are deep-seated but are partly the result of Mr Hague's misreading of May 1. His allies argue that the Tories lost from not having a clear-cut line on a single currency. But there is no evidence that the Tories suffered because they were not sceptic enough. Not only did an anti-monetary union position make no difference to the results of individual candidates, but the intervention of the Referendum and UK Independence parties may have cost the Tories just three seats overall (according to the work by John Curtice and Michael Steed in the Nuffield study). While two-thirds of the Referendum Party's support may have come from former Tories, it diverted the protest vote from candidates more likely to win and may have saved the Tories some seats. Europe is not a high priority for most voters (apart from committed Tories) and mattered mainly in emphasising party divisions.

By rejecting entry for the next Parliament, Mr Hague has re-emphasised these tensions. He believes his new formula will ensure greater clarity, and have the support of a majority of MPs and Tory members. But he is forgetting that, in Opposition, clarity is not necessarily a virtue when you do not have the initiative to set the political agenda. (It is curious that a single currency is the sole issue where the Tories believe they now have to decide a policy.) Mr Hague is taking a one-way bet on monetary union failing and being able to defeat a referendum on entry.

Mr Hague and Mr Blair are in a curious way the mirror image of each other. The Tory leader is trying to correct the mistakes of Government in Opposition, while the Prime Minister is continuing the caution of Opposition in Government. But Mr Hague's mistake offers a big opportunity for Mr Blair. He now has the chance, in the vivid words of Winston Churchill about Joseph Chamberlain, to "make the weather" and to reshape the political agenda.

Flat broke

SEDITIONS murmurs are echoing through Albany, Byron's old haunt and still one of London's smartest addresses. Alan Clark, Sir Isaiah Berlin and Roger Scruton are among those who lurk in the Piccadilly flats — inheritors of a cultural tradition which also links them to J.B. Priestley, Graham Greene and Raffles, the fictional jewel thief.

Now an unwelcome circular has thrummed on their doorsteps, informing them that service charges — already well over £1,000 a quarter for the pokiest garret — are to rise "substantially". Half of the flats are privately owned, with the rest let by Peterhouse College, Cambridge. Their tenants, still reeling from a 40 per cent rent rise last year, are not pleased.

"Money rules, which is a shame," says Christopher Gibbs, society antiquities dealer, who has lived there for more than 20 years and fears its "character" will suffer. Trustees are supposed to vet applicants. "It is part of a culture change. We all dread Albany becoming just a crash pad for rich people."

The reason? Repairs to its Rope Walk have been completed "at some expense". "The trustees are obliged to get good rents, but I hope they control who comes in so we don't get too many horrible people," says Mr Gibbs, worried that the changes will mean he can no longer afford the atmosphere of

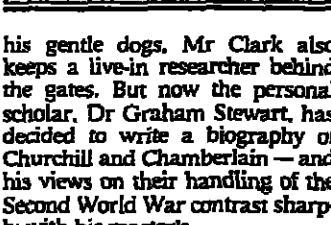
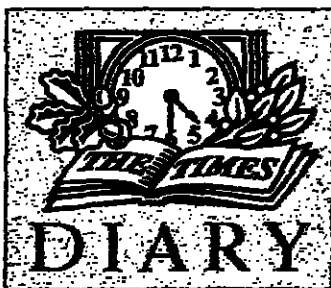


Albany types: Clark, Byron

"sparse elegance". But Lord Quinton, who lives in a private Albany flat, is unsympathetic. "A lot of people here have had a very good deal for a very long time," he opines. No longer.

Dog days

AT one of Alan Clark's other homes, Salwood Castle, the atmosphere is slightly tense. Apart from



his gentle dogs, Mr Clark also keeps a live-in researcher behind the gates. But now the personal scholar, Dr Graham Stewart, has decided to write a biography of Churchill and Chamberlain — and his views on their handling of the Second World War contrast sharply with his master's.

"The book is about the different ways one can go about getting the leadership of the Tory party," says Stewart. "Chamberlain did it by keeping in with the Cabinet; Churchill did it by falling out with them."

So far, so good. But the thorny issue is 1941, and Clark's revisionist views on Winston. "Clark thought Churchill should have made peace in 1941, but I think it would have been a hopeless idea," says Stewart courageously, noting that Mr Clark has been keeping out of his

way. "Alan's been very busy with the court case, so I haven't seen all that much of him."

WITH rare regard for the elderly, I gather that Baroness Thatcher was concerned about Bob Jordan, the newly-retired doorkeeper to No 10. Worried that he might get a bit chilly in winter, she installed an electric heater above the doorway.

Star attraction

KEEN to lend itself a more sophisticated air, Eurostar has added a Scottish watercolourist to its staff. Glynis Boyd Harte has been hired to paint attractions along the way to Brussels and Paris. A selection of his work will be hung at that famed gallery, Ashford International Station.

"It's very interesting," says Boyd Harte. "I meet a lot of businessmen with mobile telephones — I rarely come across that sort of chap." But there are exceptions. "I sat next to Yehudi Menuhin recently. Charming fellow."

DRAW your own conclusions. The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is advertising for a Curator of Art (Paintings and Sculpture). Applicants will need to know their stuff, are being wooed

with a salary starting at £13,920. But should they prefer "modern" art, requiring little knowledge of anything much, they may spot the advert for a director of the Baltic Flour Mills contemporary art centre in Gateshead. The salary? £55,000. Not bad.

Caff gaffe

TRY as she might, Tara Palmer Tomkinson just can't keep out of the limelight. Now she has hurt the feelings of East Enders after visit-



"Those are my bonding session clothes"

ing a restaurant there to film a television slot. Unwisely, she jested that it was "hold-on-to-your-hat territory". The owner of Arkansas Cafe, Bubba Helberg, is not impressed. "She was such a snob," he avers. "She told us she'd needed a passport to come over to see us."

A MILD stroke has done little to dampen the spirits of Captain Asha Linnah, a QC and the first man to disarm Hitler's magnetic mines. Last week I found him celebrating his 90th birthday with old chums at London's Plasterers' Hall. "He's never looked better," says a fellow war veteran. "He destroyed bridges across the Rhine then and he still could now."

Arctic role

CLARE SHORT has a host of hidden talents, as I discovered at a party the other night. Taking me aside, she praised the "wonderfully atmospheric" film she had just seen — *Smilla's Feeling For Snow*, which is set in the Arctic and stars Julia Ormond. As Ms Short's son, Toby Graham, listened in admiration, she impressed with her grasp of Inuit language. "I lived for a time on Baffin Island," she explained, referring to a barren Arctic land-



Snow queen: Julia Ormond

mass. Stand by for a large dollop of British aid to remote Arctic islands.

WHAT would grandpa say? Arlo Guthrie, grandson of aeronautics luminary Sir Giles Guthrie, is travelling the Internet for Pulex Irritians — human fleas. As the agent for "the world's last flea circus", he says only human ones work on the high wire. "There is a terrible shortage," he complains. Itchy business.

JASPER GERARD

lice
tice



POPE AND PAPON

Dates with history that should not be postponed

The 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth is unlikely to see the great mass movements of flagellants and penitents that marked the beginning of this millennium. But the Vatican has begun a process which could lead to a solemn act of repentance by the Roman Catholic Church for the darkest chapters in its own history over the past thousand years. The Chief Rabbi of Rome said yesterday that he had never believed that he would hear a Pope describe the Jews as "the chosen people". The Pope believes that, for the Church to start the new era with a clean slate, it must acknowledge and repent its role in the great persecutions of the Jews from the Middle Ages to Hitler.

The first to be scrutinised are those which accompanied the Holy Inquisition. The second will be the failures of Church leaders, including Pius XII, to speak out against the Holocaust, the Church's concordat with fascism and allegations that the Vatican bankrolled and later protected some German Nazis. The Vatican International Symposium on "The Christian Roots of Anti-Semitism" has been asked to probe deeply and report to the Pope. This could lead to an imminent Papal apology on behalf of the Church for failures in its moral duty to the Jews—a culmination to the acts of penitence that, in 1994, the Pontiff asked of individual Catholics and priests. But the Vatican archives on the Nazi era will remain sealed; and by encompassing the whole millennium, the Church may also deflect attention from one obvious question: why it has taken Rome more than half this century to confront its record on the Holocaust.

In France, where its bishops pronounced a Declaration of Repentance last month at Drancy, the same awkward question has thrust itself to the centre of debate—and not just with respect to the Church. From Drancy, 76,000 Jews were deported between 1942 and 1944, rounded up by French police acting on orders from the Vichy Government. At the war's end, 2,600 returned.

Why this public act should have taken the bishops 55 years may say more about France than about its clergy. The French Catholic hierarchy strongly supported Vichy and was

culpably silent about the anti-Semitic laws of 1940. But Church leaders did condemn the mass round-ups in 1942 and many more French, including clergy, sheltered Jews than did so in other Nazi-occupied countries.

The bishops' penance has to be seen as part of a remarkable collective searching of France's great *temps perdu*, the wartime Occupation whose history was not so much rewritten as excised. The Liberation brought terrible and often violent retribution against some collaborators; but that purge over, France embraced the comforting myths of a suffering country united by the Resistance.

The trial of Maurice Papon which continues this week revives the nation because, as a senior Vichy official who became a decorated pillar of the postwar Establishment, he represents the essence of an institutional continuity that has few apologists today. The years of silence have meant that now that the floodgates of memory are opening, along with state archives on expropriated Jewish property and art and the 5,500 sealed boxes of Vichy's "grand commissariat for Jewish questions", the postwar French Establishment stands exposed along with Vichy.

Among politicians, a backlash has begun which is not confined to racists of the National Front. Philippe Séguin, leader of the Gaullist RPR, protests that the Papon trial is "a pretext for a trial against de Gaulle and Gaullism, and France itself". On the left, Jean-Pierre Chevènement derides a "climate of national masochism". Both are wrong. M Papon is accused of active involvement in the deportation of 1,560 Jews, a charge as specific as it is grave; and it is on specifics that he will be judged. Opinion polls show that most French people believe that it is healthy to confront the past, even if that means looking in the mirror to ask why so many had faith in Vichy. If the Papon trial has also tapped a vein of public unease about the unaccountability of France's civil servants, in modern times as well as in the past, that is a matter for political reform, not political sniping. French lawyers, police and doctors have joined the clergy's *mea culpa*; it is they who best reflect the spirit of the time.

HURT STILL WORKS

Hague is right to confront his European critics

"If it isn't hurting, it isn't working" may have been John Major's least politically successful phrase in Government. But just as it then had the ring of truth, so it could now be applied to William Hague's determination to hold a clear line on the single currency. So far his commitment to ruling out EMU membership for two parliaments has led to two frontbench resignations—Ian Taylor and David Curry—and caused two old beasts—Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine—to roar. But Mr Hague is right; and in the long run, he will not regret it.

In office, Mr Major had one goal above all others: to keep his party together. His attempts to keep both sides of the party happy, he allowed each to believe that he could be pulled in their direction. The net result was no policy beyond "wait and see". So the Tories' potentially most attractive electoral asset was squandered.

Mr Hague has clearly learnt lessons from the debacle of the last Parliament. He knows that trying to fudge the issue will get him nowhere and will not present to the electorate an image of a united party. Ruling out a single currency "for the foreseeable future" is a stance that would last only as long as the future can be foreseen: in politics, roughly a week. If Mr Hague were to hold

off making policy until closer to the next election, he would merely be delaying the arguments until a much more sensitive time. Much better to get them over with at an opportune time in the electoral cycle.

The truth is that no policy on Europe will unite the Conservative Party. The two wings of the party are irreconcilable. If anyone could have found one, it was Mr Major, and he failed to do so. So the alternative is to go for a policy that is right, that is intellectually defensible, that commands the support of the majority of the party—and which has the merit of being popular in the country. That is what Mr Hague has sensibly done.

He has also acknowledged that he will never win over the whole parliamentary party: he has agreed that, if and when the time comes, backbenchers will have a free vote on the single currency. He may find that he has to extend this freedom to other European issues. But what is critical is that he maintains frontbench unity; and to this end, the resignations of Messrs Taylor and Curry can only be liberating.

Both Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher won popular plaudits from taking on the old guards in their party. Mr Hague can afford to do the same. It is unlikely that he will actually drive MPs over to the other side: unlike the Gang of Four who formed the SDP, his European dissenters are not alienated by his whole philosophy. But even if he did suffer a little attrition in this Parliament, he should be suitably rewarded in the next. Clarity and leadership are attractive in politics; dithering and dissembling are not.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

All human life is captured by the words invented to describe it

Words do define a century. As we report today, the lexicographers at HarperCollins have picked 101 neologisms since 1896, each of which stands as a year's verbal snapshot.

Since language is a defining human activity, this is no odder a method of measuring the passage of time than by consuls, the Olympic Games or the reigns of kings. It is more accurate than dating from the Year of Creation, fixed with precision by Archbishop Ussher as 4,004 BC. It is more general than the particular local chronologies of flood, harvest and drought, which served rural communities for millennia.

But as time-posts, the words of the past century give a subjective and overall a dark picture. Sinn Féin, air raids and ethnic cleansing are still things as well as words. The Cheka, Gestapo and doodlebugs are now obsolete history as well as markers of history. Girl Guides, Mickey Mouse and the National Lottery have added to the gaiety of nations. Perhaps the most versatile words are those such as "krypton" and "robotics", which first appeared as scientific or pseudo-scientific terms and have been recycled with spin-offs by "television", the key word for 1926 and a master words of the century.

The number of new words coming into the English language during the course of a year varies according to the size of the dict-

ionary and the definition of a word. The Oxford English Dictionary, which before admitting a word judges whether it has legs to keep running, validates hundreds of new words each year. But if fly-by-night words of the school playground, club and private joke are counted, thousands of new words are invented every day. Most new words at this end of the century come from science and computers. Accordingly most are meaningless to anybody outside their jargon.

These words of the century provide a route map. A similar or a quite different map could have been signposted by 101 different words. What would be interesting would be to have a preview of the words that will define the next century. They will continue to reflect science, cultural fashion and grief and joy, which are part of life as well as language. Modern languages speak of the past lying behind and the future in front. Ancient languages thought of the future behind its back, creeping up to catch it unawares. Whereas the past was laid out in front for all to see. Man is clever with words, and credulous about things, as words of the past century such as "flying saucer", "bikini" and "exchange-rate mechanism" indicate. The only safe bet about the new words of the next century is that they will pour forth in accelerated numbers, describing and defining the astonishing journey of Man

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Long-term harm' of no win, no fee

From Mr Stephen Nathan, QC

Sir, The Government's decision to kill off civil legal aid for damages claims (letters, October 25, 28) is a triumph of short-term Treasury gain without any proper consideration or debate given to the long-term harm which will be wrought to our system of justice. But the real issue, ignored by the Government, is: do we, as a civilised European society, genuinely want a system of paying lawyers by contingency fees for civil litigation? (The proposed change is not just limited to clients within the present legal aid limits.)

US attorneys to whom I have talked all speak with one voice. Their experience is that the contingency-fee basis is a thoroughly bad system which inevitably pitches the client and his lawyer into a conflict where the commercial interests of the lawyer and the interests of his client are likely to be diametrically opposed.

English lawyers have an enviable reputation here and abroad for honourable professional behaviour because they represent only their client's interests and do so fearlessly. Now they must have regard to their own interests and no one should be surprised when they put their own interests first. Worse still, the temptation to cheat will occur again and again (as one has seen in the USA).

Those with legitimate grievances, which deserve to be aired in any decent society, will all too often find no lawyer to take on their case because their chance of success is not good enough for the lawyer to finance on a contingency basis and because few such would-be plaintiffs have enough money of their own to invest in their litigation.

By deciding to dump all the financial risks of civil litigation onto a small group within our society, instead of spreading it through society as a whole (by a national system of legal aid), much in our system of justice that is the envy of our neighbours is now going to be chucked out.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN NATHAN,
Hare Court Barristers,
2 Hare Court, Temple, EC4A.
October 29.

From Dr R. D. S. Bloore

Sir, Adrian Zuckerman's interesting article, "No win, no fee, no solution" (October 28), raises two important issues. First, that insurance cover has limitations and, secondly, that no win, no fee arrangements are unlikely to be available to defendants.

Obtaining adequate cover at a reasonable premium will clearly be problematic, once litigation is in prospect. If one waited until serious illness occurred before seeking medical insurance, high premiums, restrictions on cover and outright refusals would come as no surprise.

Mr Zuckerman also notes that in Germany legal fees are fixed as a small proportion of the value of the dispute. This lower and more predictable cost of litigation means that affordable legal insurance policies are available in that country. Moreover, as they are generally annual policies, they give cover to defendants as well as plaintiffs.

However, an essential part of the German system, which is not widely publicised, is the mechanism which discourages claimants and their lawyers from exaggerating claims to increase fee recovery. In the German courts, plaintiffs only recover a percentage of the prescribed fees in proportion to the success of their claim. Thus, if the claimant is awarded 60 per cent of his claim, he only recovers 60 per cent of the prescribed fees from the defendant.

By encouraging realistic claims, this system not only helps to foster shorter trials but also promotes early settlement.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BLOORE,
89 Haliburton Road, St Margarets,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
October 29.

Commons standards

From Mr Bernard Black

Sir, When Mr Quentin Davies—the Conservative MP who was the scourge of fellow party member David Willetts in the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges—disassociates himself from the committee's stance on Neil Hamilton's request (reports, October 29), it is difficult to see that justice has been done.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BLACK
(Head of Political Studies),
St John's College, Grove Road South,
Southsea, Hampshire.
October 29.

Wheels under fire

From Professor Emeritus
Felix Weinberg, FRS

Sir, With reference to the inflation in bicycle speeds as measured by police radar guns (letter, October 25), have they allowed for the fact that the top of a wheel must travel forward at twice the speed of the bike, since the bottom is stationary with respect to the road?

The same is true of cars, of course, but then wheels are much more prominent features of bicycles.

Yours faithfully,
FELIX WEINBERG,
71 Victoria Road, SW14.

Accountability of London's mayor

From the Minister for London

Sir, No, as you rightly state in your leading article ("Double talk", October 30), we do not intend to ask Londoners separate questions about the proposed mayor and assembly. It would be irresponsible to put a model to the people which simply would not work. We believe that the mayor and assembly combined are essential to ensure both leadership and accountability.

In the referendum we will ask the people of London whether or not they agree with us. I confidently expect to receive a resounding "yes" vote for what we have proposed.

The mayor of London will be a strong mayor, a powerful and influential voice, speaking on behalf of a potential electorate of five million people. He or she will be responsible for the control of significant public funds, and will make a number of key appointments.

In these circumstances we are absolutely convinced that the mayor must be held to account. This can be best done by an elected body with specific powers to scrutinise what the mayor proposes and does.

The assembly will also have another important role: to consider London-wide issues on a strategic basis. That is why we do not believe that the "indirect forum" you propose, with 32 borough leaders and the Corporation of London, would be an adequate alternative to the assembly. Each leader would, quite rightly, see his or her first loyalty as fighting for his or her own patch rather than the wider interests of London as a whole.

Our intention is to put a single proposal to Londoners which is balanced and well thought through. We are consulting widely on it and are encouraged by the huge support for the mayor and assembly.

War memorials

From Lieutenant-Colonel
H. D. R. Mackay (ret'd)

Sir, Your report (October 29) on the call for a national memorial to the women who served in the Second World War mentioned the memorials in St Paul's Cathedral and York Minster which commemorate only those women who served in the First World War, but claimed there was none for those who served in the last war.

In the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, not only are Scots servicewomen who died in both world wars and subsequent conflicts recorded, but a wider commemoration of the unique role of women is inscribed on the bronze plaque in the area devoted to their memory. The dedication reads:

In honour of all Scotswomen who amid the stress of war sought by their labours sympathy and prayers to obtain for their country the blessings of peace.

I suggest that this commemoration may appeal to those MPs calling for a memorial statue.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MACKAY
(Secretary to the Trustees,
Scottish National War Memorial),
The Castle, Edinburgh 1.
October 30.

From Lieutenant-Colonel
Kate Parsons (ret'd)

Sir, The Second World War memorial dedicated in April 1949 in St Martin's Church, Liskeard, Cornwall, depicts on the left-hand side of the carved coloured panel the three Armed Services, including WRNS, ATS and WRAF. On the right-hand side it shows five figures depicting a fireman, a nurse, a

A mayor without an assembly is not an option.

Yours faithfully,
NICK RAYNSFORD,
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions,
Eland House, Bressenden Place, SW1,
October 30.

From Professor Emeritus A. Ralston

Sir, Your implied belief that a mayor in the US who must "coexist with an elected council that can claim a mandate of its own, and which has the authority to challenge budgetary and personnel decisions of the executive, soon becomes no more than a symbolic figure" bears no relation to the facts. In almost all major cities in the US there is some form of elected council as well as a mayor. Despite this, the mayor, far from being a "symbolic figure", is always much the most powerful elected official.

For example, in New York with an elected city council of 50-odd members, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani dominates the city government. Although the council does have some budgetary and other powers and is controlled by the Democrats (whereas Mayor Giuliani is a Republican), its role is and can be no more than to provide a brake to mayoral excesses. In Buffalo, the second largest city in New York State, there is also an elected common council; but it, too, is not collectively nearly as powerful as the elected mayor.

US experience would suggest, if anything, that accountability for a mayor can only be achieved with an elected body with clearly defined prerogatives. An "indirect forum", such as you propose, is unlikely to be an effective brake on mayoral power in London.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON,
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7.

housewife, a Red Cross worker and a Landgirl.

This memorial was instigated by my late father, who at the time was Vicar of Liskeard. It must be quite unique as it shows only four men but seven women.

Yours faithfully,
KATE PARSONS,
11 De La Hay Avenue,
Plymouth, Devon.
October 28.

From Ms Liz Exton

Sir, It is certainly a shame that war memorials are being neglected and even discarded (letter, October 28), but on the positive side a few are turning up in cyberspace.

The Northallerton Memorials Project website at:
<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/town/terrace/q043/>
is the initiative of one man, Steve Metcalfe. It provides biographies and photographs of the soldiers killed in the First World War and named on three war memorials in the Northallerton area, along with details of their service. I found it a profoundly moving website.

Perhaps the way forward is to record all war memorials in this way and use them as a learning resource available to all.

My only connection with Mr Metcalfe's site is that my great-uncle, G.E. Exton, is one of the soldiers listed, and my great-grandfather was Chairman of the Romanby war memorial committee, one of the memorials listed.

Yours faithfully,
K. E. EXTON,
38 Malvern Road, Bristol.
l.ex@cablenet.co.uk
October 29.

Lesson from France

From Mr P. A. Hearne

Sir, One of the strengths of a system of higher education is its ability to develop the nation's strata of the intellectually gifted—a fact well demonstrated by France's intensive two-year selection process for the *grandes écoles*, from whence come their extremely capable top-level administrators and managers.

Whilst it may be totally at odds with "political correctness", I would suggest that a student finance scheme, which provided a system of scholarships for those with the best A-level results and an increasing scale of fees for the less successful, could be a valuable method of raising the overall performance of UK Ltd.

Strokes and polyglots

From Mr John Popkins

Sir, My father suffered a stroke three years before he died and, on regaining consciousness, spoke only in Welsh which was his first language (letters, October 22 and 29).

He had not spoken Welsh on a regular basis for nearly forty years, having moved to work in England. Sadly his children could not understand him as we were not brought up as Welsh speakers.

Two days later he was conversing once again in English, but referring to events from his distant past.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POPKINS,
Ty Carian, Adpar,
Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion.
ipopkins@aol.com
October 29.

able method of raising the overall performance of UK Ltd.

It would have the knock-on effect of encouraging the development of A-level standards, something to the benefit of all sixth-formers, and at the graduate/post-graduate level would create a wider and more numerous intellectual elite for UK's managerial requirements in the 21st century.

Likewise, by deterring those who are less dedicated or less suited to university learning, it would free up resources and funds to the benefit of the whole educational system.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. HEARNE,
The Limes, Watlington, Kent.
November 1.

Santa stamps

From Mrs Felicity Little

Sir, The Christmas stamps (letter, October 31) depict St Nicholas, 4th-century Bishop of Myra.

He is a symbol of loving, anonymous giving. He is not dressed up as in a department store, but unseen. He should be a bearer of small treats, given with love, in a Christian spirit.

Yours faithfully,
FELICITY LITTLE,
Font House, Teffont Magna,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Sport letters, page 32

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

New spin on the Crabtree legend

From Lord McNally

Sir, As a spin-doctor (retired) of some repute, I must protest at the irresponsible use made by Nick Munnall (report, "Academic joke that grew into a legend", October 27) of the entirely off-the-record, for background only and unattributable briefing I gave him about the Joseph Crabtree Foundation.

If a chap can't make the odd comment from the saloon bar of the Red Lion without finding it all in the public prints, where is it all going to end? I resent in particular the implication in the story that Crabtree Orations are simply a cover for drinking wine amidst academic ribaldry. Let the slanders and the speculation cease at once.

At the next meeting of the foundation, to be held at University College London in February 1998 (dinner at 5.30pm for 8pm), that serious and sober gathering will receive a full, detailed and definitive statement on the future of Crabtree scholarship.

Until that statement is made I hope *The Times* will resist relying on background briefings in discussing Crabtree. Such speculation only damages the reputation of a great man and undermines work on a thesis. "Crabtree and Gordon Brown—are they related?", which is already beginning to excite the interest of Crabtree scholars.

Yours faithfully,
MCNALLY,
House of Lords,
October 28.

Anne Boleyn's note

From Mr E. P. Wilson

Sir, Dalya Alberge's absorbing account of Anne Boleyn's book of hours (report and illustrations, October 27) notes that, below a miniature of the Last Judgment, Anne had written the words "Le temps viendra". Ms Kay Sutton, Christie's manuscript consultant, commented: "Who knows what she meant by that?"

The answer is that the words are a variant of the first part of an Old French proverb *Un jour vieni qui tout paie* (Froissart, *Chroniques*, c1390). In English it is first recorded in Thomas Lupton's *Siugla*: "Too good to be true (1580): 'A common saying. A day will come shall pay for al'". The inscription "Une heure viendra qui tout paie" appears on the tomb of a medieval Flemish knight and prompted a poem with that title in Rennell Rodd's *Songs in the South* (1881).

The relevance of the proverb for a Last Judgment scene is obvious, as is the grim dramatic irony of its application to Anne Boleyn.

Yours faithfully,
E. P. WILSON,
Worcester College, Oxford.
October 27.

Favourite firsts

From Mr David Oldbury

Sir, Admirers of the opening lines of novels would do well to consult Godfrey Smith's *Beyond the Tingle Quotient* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson), in which he quotes many of the opening lines noticed by your readers (October 18, 20, 25, 27) and many more.

My favourite was supplied to Mr Smith by your own Bernard Levin. An indolent Oxford undergraduate had done no work for three years and in explanation to his tutor claimed to have been writing a novel. When pressed for a reading, the undergraduate extemporised: "Mabel's naked body quivered in ecstatic anticipation of the descending lash."

I am, Sir, yours truly,
DAVID OLDBURY,
Knackan House,
The Freetowns, Rochester, Kent.
November 1.

Choc horror

From Adam Grant

Sir, I have two simple suggestions for renaming chocolate this side of the Channel (report, "All because the Belgians do not like Milk Tray", October 24): British Chocolate, or simply, Better Than Yours.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM GRANT (aged 14),
36 Hall Park Avenue,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
October 27.

From Mrs Mary R. Elliott

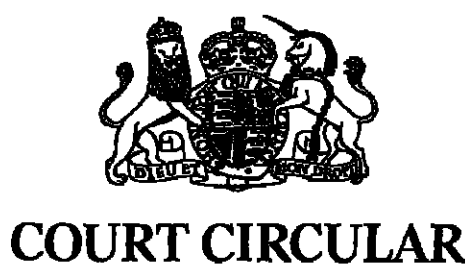
Sir, ingredients are already written on chocolate bars: what's wrong with British (Milk) Chocolate if that would keep the peace with Europe?

Sincerely,
MARY R. ELLIOTT,
17 Morningside Road, Edinburgh.
October 25.

From Mrs June Brough

Sir, As the High Court has ruled that Cadbury's may not market Swiss Châlet chocolate (report and illustration, October 30) in case people think it is made in Switzerland, where do they think that Mars bars come from?

Yours faithfully,
JUNE BROUGH,
43 Marshwood Croft,
Halesowen, West Midlands.
j.m.brough@bham.ac.uk
October 30.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 1: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, today attended the Sixth International Award Forum in Wellington, New Zealand.

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon attended a Reception of the English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth at Government House, Wellington.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Duke of Edinburgh's Award New Zealand Reception and Dinner at the Plaza International Hotel, Wellington.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 1: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning arrived in Wellington, New Zealand, and was received by the Governor-General (the Rt Hon Sir Michael Hardie Boys).

His Royal Highness later visited EDS Headquarters to meet the staff and EDS Award holders.

The Prince Edward this afternoon attended a meeting of the International Trusts, followed by Luncheon at the Wellington Club.

His Royal Highness later attended a Reception for LINK given by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Robert Alston) at the residence.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a Reception and Dinner for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in New Zealand at the Plaza International Hotel.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 2: The Princess Royal, Trustee for Carers, this morning visited the Card Carers Centre, Silk Street, Paisley, in its centenary year and laid a foundation stone for a new library.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the University of Paisley, High Street, Paisley, in its centenary year and laid a foundation stone for a new library.

The Princess Royal this afternoon attended a Reception for the Scottish Hospital (Erskine Hospital), Bishopclee.

Her Royal Highness later opened a new Royal Sailors' Rest, Braeholm, East Monroese Street, Helensburgh, and was received by Mr Archibald Mackenzie (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire).

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner on board HMV Britannia, Glasgow.

ST JAMES'S PALACE November 1: The Prince of Wales was received by President Mandela this morning at Mahlabani, Ndolofu, Pretoria, South Africa, and was later entertained to Luncheon by the President.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Johannesburg.

The Prince of Wales visited the

Margate House housing project and was briefed on the regeneration of the inner city.

His Royal Highness afterwards met young people on enterprise training courses funded by the Nations Trust and the Department for International Development.

The Prince of Wales subsequently met prizewinners of a British Council environment essay competition and their families.

His Royal Highness afterwards officially opened the Sandton Hilton Hotel.

This evening The Prince of Wales attended a concert in aid of the Nations Trust at the Johannesburg Athletics Stadium with Mr Thabo Mbeki (Vice-President of the Republic of South Africa).

KENSINGTON PALACE November 1: The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, this morning attended a trustees' meeting at the British Museum, London WC1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 2: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, today attended the Sixth International Award Forum of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association in Wellington, New Zealand.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a Reception for the Outward Bound Trust at Government House, Wellington.

The Duke of Edinburgh later attended the Duke of Edinburgh's Award New Zealand Reception at the Botanic Gardens, Wellington.

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Birthdays today

Viscount Linley celebrates his 36th birthday today.

Other birthdays include: Miss Roseanne Arnold, actress, 45; Lord Baker of Dorking, CH, 63; Mr C.W. Beveridge, chief executive, Scottish Enterprise, 52; Lord Biffen, 67; Mr Charles Bronson, actor, 75; Mr Nicholas Budgen, former MP, 60; the Earl of Caithness, 49; Sir Kenneth Corley, former chairman, Joseph Lucas (Industries), 89; Miss Violeta Elvin, ballerina, 72; Mr Roy Emerson, tennis player, 61; Miss Jean Flood, former Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 82; Mr Michael Gallimore, former Editor, *The Sporting Life*, 53; Mr Larry Holmes, boxer, 48; Sir Ludovic Kennedy, broadcaster, 78; Alderman Sir Christopher Leaver, former Lord Mayor of London, 60; the Earl of Lonsdale, 75; Lulu, singer and actress, 49; the Earl of Meath, 87; Major-General Vic Mountbatten of Breckley, 82; Mr Kenneth Morgan, former director, Press Complaints Commission, 69; the Earl of Northesk, 43; Mr Conor Cruise O'Brien, journalist and author, 80; Sir Timothy Raison, former MP, 68; Mr Albert Reynolds, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 65; Mr Vanni Treves, senior partner, Macfarlanes, 57; Vice-Admiral Sir John Webster, 65; Mr Ian Wright, footballer, 34.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will open the Centre for Industrial and Medical Information, Nottingham University, at 10.45; will visit William Alvey Junior School, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, at 2.15; and will open the Shaw Line Centre, Broadgate House, Westside Street, Spalding, at 3.30.

The Princess Royal, as Honorary President of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, will attend an International Symposium of Scottish Motor Neurone Disease associations at the Glasgow Hilton, William Street, at 10; as president, Save the Children Fund, will visit their shops at 165 Byres Road at 11.10 and 229-301 Sauchiehall Street, 11.50; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the 25th anniversary of the Dixon Community, City Chambers, at 12.25; and will attend the Prudential Carers Initiative - Carers Calendar Schools Competition Awards at Kirkcaldy House, 139 St Vincent Street, at 2.35. Later, as Honorary President of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Princess Royal will attend a dinner of Scottish Motor Neurone Disease associations at the Glasgow Hilton, at 7.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron, the Institute of Export, will attend the annual prizegiving at Mansion House at 4.45.

Service dinner

Ayrshire Yeomanry Association Major P.N.B. Kennedy, Honorary Colonel of the Ayrshire Squadron of the Scottish Yeomanry, presided at the annual regimental dinner held by officers, serving and retired, of the Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry, which was held at Yeomanry House, on Saturday evening. Lieutenant-General Sir Norman Arthur was the principal guest.

1,300-year glass craft tradition could end

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE 1,300-YEAR tradition of glassmaking in the North East is under threat as a factory faces closure in Sunderland.

The Venetians guarded the secrets of glassmaking with their lives but the skills handed down through generations of Sunderland workers are now up for sale.

Glass-blowing craftsmen in danger of redundancy at the Hartley Wood glassworks have appealed to the new National Glass Centre, which is based in Sunderland, to step in.

Management of the £16-million glass centre is negotiating to raise £750,000 to incorporate Hartley Woods as a living commercial factory within its walls. The centre hopes to employ some of the six workers when it opens in June next year.

Glass-blowing on Wearside was established in AD674 by a Benedictine monk, who was searching for stained glass for the monastery of St Peter's at Monkwearmouth.

Ernie Rice, works manager at Hartley Woods, said: "Our glassmaking heritage could disappear. It would be a bit of a dead duck if visitors to the glass centre had to watch people making double glazing."

Offers have been made to the workers to train Germans in the closely guarded techniques of manufacturing mouth-blown antique-style glass, but that would undermine the products the National Glass Centre hopes to make when it opens.

Mr Rice added: "These are all young men with families



James Dorothy tests a piece of glass for colour at the Hartley Woods glassworks

and mortgages. They don't want to leave Sunderland. But they could be gone - and the skills with them - by the time anyone does anything about it."

Alan Sykes, of the National

Glass Centre, admitted that no guarantees could be made on jobs but said that the men from Hartley Wood would be the first to be considered next year. "There are more jobs being created at the glass

centre than are being lost at Hartley Wood," he added. "I am confident there will be opportunities for them and they have a very, very good chance of being taken on when we open."

Nature notes

A FEW very late swallows are still passing through Britain on their way south. More winter visitors are coming in: among the scarcer arrivals recorded last week were great grey shrikes, which pounce down on beetles from the top of hawthorn bushes, and shore larks (sometimes called horned larks) which are like skylarks with yellow faces, and which feed along the shingle.

Rough-legged buzzards have been seen hunting over coastal fields: they have longer wings than the common buzzard, and a characteristic black tail-band. Tawny owls can still be heard hooting at night, but they are quieter than they were a month ago because they have sorted out their winter territories.

It has been a very green autumn so far, and many Lombardy poplars and weeping willows are

still in their summer foliage. Plane trees are changing colour, and are spangled with yellow and brown. Their holly-like seeds will not crumble and fall until next spring. Holly berries are plump and abundant: ivy flowers are giving way to black fruit. The blue flowers of field speedwell linger on in the cornfields among decaying stubble. The last bluebottle and greenbottle flies warn themselves on sunny fences.

DJM



The great grey shrike

Dinners

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine Sir Ronald Oxburgh, FRS, Rector of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, presided at a gala dinner which was held at the Hyatt Park Hotel, Johannesburg, yesterday to celebrate the centenary of the City and Guilds College Association. The guests included: Mr Mark Lyle, Grant, Deputy British High Commissioner; and Dr Anthony Denton, president of the association.

Henry George Foundation Mr Norman Slater, Chairman of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, presided at a dinner of the foundation which was held on Saturday evening at the Edox Hotel, London, to mark the centenary of the death of Henry George, author of *Progress and Poverty*.

Association of Lancastrians In London Lord Shuttleworth, President of the Association of Lancastrians in London, accompanied by Lady Shuttleworth, presided at the annual dinner and dance held on Saturday at the Falcon Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine At the Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, held at the Royal College of Physicians of London, on October 28, Professor Peter Sturges was elected President and Professor Walter Spitzer was awarded Honorary Fellowship. Sir William Asscher, Immediate Past President, took the Chair at the Annual Dinner. Rabbi Julia Neuberger was the guest of honour.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.C.K. Cohen and Miss P.J. Jenkins The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Canon and Mrs Olive Cohen, of Winterville, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence Jenkins, of Marshfield.

Captain D.M. Herring and Miss P.H. Foster The engagement is announced between David Herring, MBE, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Herring, of South Leicestershire, and Pippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Foster, of Somerset.

Mr N.O. Lewis and Miss A.E. Hickman The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Lewis, of Beverton, Gloucestershire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hickman, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr J.A. Yorke and Miss A.M. Hall The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Yorke, of Clitheroe, Lancashire, and Alexandra, youngest daughter of the late Dr Francis Hall and of Mrs Hall Hall, of Westminster, London, formerly of Chichester, West Sussex.

Marriages

The Marquess of Linlithgow and Mrs Lady Rogers A service of blessing was held on Saturday at Christ Church, Bwlch-y-Cibau, Powys, for the marriage of the Marquess of Linlithgow to Auriol Lady Rogers.

Mr B. Collings and Lady Louise Gordon Lennox The marriage took place on Saturday at Broomfield Priory, Chichester, of Mr Ben Collings, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Collings, of Thurroth, Herefordshire, to Louise, youngest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, of Goodwood, Chichester, West Sussex. The Rev Peter Wells officiated, assisted by Canon Jeremy Haselock.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Alexandra Gordon Lennox. Lord Settrington, Michael Handley, Emily Reynolds, Lucy Reynolds, Charlotte Collings, Harry Collings and Frank Collings. Mr Craig Collings was best man and a reception was held at the home of the bride.

The Hon A.D. Leslie Melville and Mrs M.J. Haywood The marriage took place on November 1, at Kilmear Parish Church, between the Hon Alan Leslie Melville, of Fingehill, Kirkhill, Inverness, and Mrs Sally Haywood, of Fettes Farmhouse, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire. The Rev Susan Brown officiated.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward V, Westminster Abbey, 1470; Aurangzeb, Mogul Emperor of India 1658-1707; Dohad, 1618; William Cullen Bryant, poet, Commencement, Massachusetts, 1794; André Malraux, writer and politician, Paris, 1901; DEATHS: Annie Oakley, American rifle marksman, 1926; Béla Kun, revolutionary, 1937; Henri Matisse, painter, Nice, 1954. The town of Abruzzi in Italy was destroyed by an earthquake, 1706. About 15,000 people died. Laika, a Russian dog, was sent into space in *Sputnik II*, 1957.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

All is straightforward to those with understanding, all is plain to those who have knowledge. Proverbs 8:9

BIRTHS

CAVE - To Mary Ann (née Austin) and Robin, a son, George Arthur Cave, born at home on 23rd October, a brother for Joseph and Lulu.

WALKER - To Tom and Lucy (née Burton), a son, James William Walker, born at home on 21st October, a son for George and Lucy.

DEATHS

BELLINGHAM - Jill of Beckenham, Kent, passed peacefully at St Christopher's Hospital on October 29th. Loving and much loved wife of Michael, a mother of James, Richard and Paul. Funeral service at Beckenham Methodist Church on Sunday 7th November at 1.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers from close family and friends, donations to St Christopher's Hospital or to the British Red Cross Society, 11, St. James's Place, London W1A 1BP.

BOOTHMAN - William, 94, of 100, St. James's Road, Beckenham, Kent SE26 5NT, died peacefully at home on 29th October 1997, aged 94 years. He was a loving husband of Joan and father of Anthony, Judy and Martin. Funeral service at Beckenham Methodist Church on Sunday 7th November at 1.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers from close family and friends, donations to St Christopher's Hospital or to the British Red Cross Society, 11, St. James's Place, London W1A 1BP.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAILABLE Tickets for the 1997-1998 season. Call 0171 481 4000 for more information.

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OBITUARIES

GERARD CORLEY SMITH

Gerard Corley Smith, CMG, former Ambassador to Ecuador, died on October 7 aged 88. He was born on July 30, 1909.

Although he had a long and distinguished career in the diplomatic service, Gerard Corley Smith will be particularly remembered for his close involvement with the cause of conservation in the Galapagos Islands. His association with the islands began in 1962, when as Ambassador to Ecuador he attended the official opening of the Charles Darwin Research Station, and gained an insight into the unique wonders of that archipelago and the strenuous efforts being made to safeguard them for the future. It was a cause that he was to espouse for the rest of his life.

Gerard Thomas Corley Smith was educated at Bolton School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. In 1931 he entered the General Consular Service, and over the next 15 years he served in Paris, Oran, Detroit, La Paz, Milan, St Louis and Brussels. He first came to international attention in 1949 when, as the British representative on the UN Economic and Social Council in New York, he was chosen to present the case against the Soviet forced labour camps, or gulags, the existence of which was only then beginning to be revealed to the world. It was a task that predictably earned him the anger and disapproval of the Eastern bloc delegations and their press.

Corley Smith returned to Europe in 1952, and in the same year was appointed CMG. His next posting was to Paris, where he served for two years as press counsellor at the British Embassy. From there he went to Madrid to take up the appointment as labour counsellor at the British Embassy, 1954-59.

With this wide experience, Corley Smith became Ambassador to Haiti in 1960. It was not an easy posting, nor could it have been under the harrowing and deeply oppressive regime of Francois ("Papa Doc") Duvalier. Years later, Corley Smith would recall his affection for the ordinary Hai-



tian people, who greeted him with their friendly "Bonjour Blanc" (a Creole expression for "Hello, stranger") as he took himself bird-watching in the hills. But the mistrust there, the "atmosphere of brooding terror" became increasingly hard to bear.

Once again, Corley Smith was chosen as spokesman, this time for a delegation of ambassadors protesting against the extortion being practised on foreigners by the Tontons Macoute, Duvalier's infamous boogymen and secret police. When he was asked by the Haitian Minister for Foreign Affairs who was doing the extortion, Corley Smith replied "the Tontons Macoute". "Who are they? I never heard of them," objected the Minister, himself a Macoute. When Corley Smith said he

needed only ask the first person he met in the street, he was given 48 hours to leave the country, on Duvalier's order. The beleaguered regime added: "The Haitian Government has made it known to its famous ambassador... that his impertinence and haughtiness as a British colonialist would not be tolerated."

Corley Smith's next appointment was to Ecuador in 1962. In Quito he found an altogether more congenial atmosphere, and unlimited scope in the country around him to pursue his interest in ornithology. Staff at the embassy soon took it as a matter of course that his official duties would be interspersed with bird-watching trips to the Andes.

An interest in high-altitude hummingbirds brought him into contact with Professor Jean Dorst of the French

National Museum of Natural History in Paris, an authority on these birds who was also President of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands.

A second journey to Galapagos followed in 1964, when Corley Smith joined the Duke of Edinburgh during his first visit to the archipelago on the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was a visit that had repercussions for both men. The Duke would later become patron of the Charles Darwin Foundation; the ambassador "became hooked on Galapagos".

Throughout his remaining time in Ecuador, Corley Smith took a discreet but influential part in Galapagos affairs, embracing the idea that wildlife-orientated tourism could be the key to economic stability for the islands, and helping to engineer the Grimwood-

Snow Mission and Report, which gave recommendations for the administration of the future national park.

Corley Smith left Ecuador in 1967, and the following year the new National Parks Service of Ecuador came into existence. The newly retired ambassador was lured to join the executive council of the Charles Darwin Foundation. The first meeting he attended was in England, at Down House, Darwin's former home, where members saw in the tall, silver-haired and distinguished-looking former diplomat a remarkable likeness to the portrait there of T. H. Huxley. In 1972, when Sir Thomas Barlow stepped down, Corley Smith took on the role of secretary-general of the foundation. It was a great coup for the ever-persuasive Dorst.

Over the next ten years Corley Smith served the foundation diligently and wholeheartedly. Those who worked with him during that period cherish the memory of his quiet skill in handling complex problems, his sage advice, and the bravado with which he ran the show "from an attic bedroom, with one typist paid (and badly) by the hour". In addition, he edited, published and distributed 24 "well-nourished" issues of the foundation's bulletin *Noticias de Galapagos*.

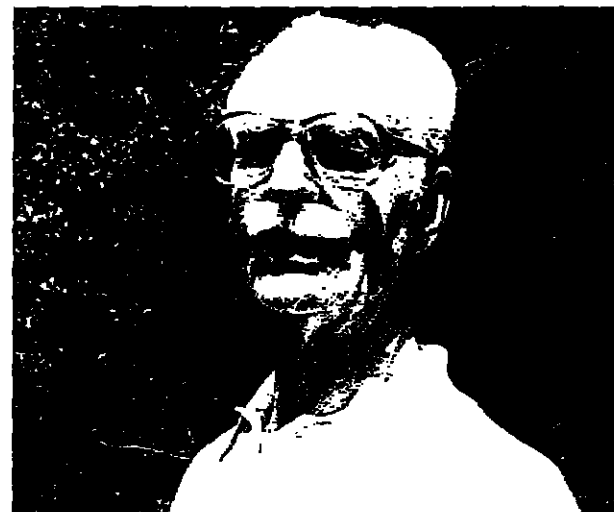
It was a buoyant period in Galapagos affairs. With his natural optimism and his gratitude to successive Ecuadorian administrations for their commitment to international science, Corley Smith helped to forge the remarkable alliance that grew between the national Government and this voluntary organisation. "Most crucially," as Dorst later wrote, "he perceived and understood the way the foundation had to meet and adapt to changing conditions in Ecuador."

On his retirement from the post of secretary-general, Corley Smith was awarded the Order "Al Merito" by the Government of Ecuador for his services to science and conservation in the Galapagos Islands.

Corley Smith married Joan Haggard in 1937. She predeceased him, but he is survived by a son and three daughters.

THE MARQUESS OF ORMONDE

Charles, 7th Marquess of Ormonde and Hereditary Chief Butler of Ireland, died in Chicago on October 25 aged 98. He was born on April 19, 1899.



CHARLES BUTLER became 7th Marquess of Ormonde unexpectedly in 1971, when he was exactly 72 years old. Until 1967 he had little idea that he was in direct line for the title, but was tracked down in Illinois by Eion O'Mahony, the eccentric Irish MP and barrister. With the Marquessate, he also became 25th Earl of Ormonde, Earl of Ossory, Viscount Thurles in the peerage of Ireland, Baron Ormonde in the peerage of the United Kingdom and 31st Chief Butler of Ireland.

This last title gave him the most prestigious and ancient hereditary title held by any family in the British Isles, but brought with it no pecuniary advantage. Nor did he inherit Kilkenny castle, the much restored 12th-century turreted castle above the River Nore, which had been the ancestral home of the Ormondes since 1391. Empty and increasingly derelict since 1935, the castle was presented to a local committee by the 6th Marquess, a genial cavalryman, in 1967, and the South Tower is destined to become the headquarters of the Butler Society.

The redoubtable O'Mahony gathered Charles Butler from America and made a dramatic last-minute arrival with him at the castle. The occasion was enlivened for local cameramen by the additional unexpected presence of Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull.

The new Marquess took his duties as head of the Butler clan most seriously and continued to preside with quiet dignity and good humour over the triennial Butler Rallies in Kilkenny until the age of 95 (travelling to Ireland, with the help of his two daughters, on the last occasion in gleeful defiance of his doctor).

The history of the Butler family is entwined with that of Ireland since the days of the Anglo-Norman invasion. In those days the Butlers and the Geraldines vied for power.

Henry II conferred the Chief Butlerage on the family in 1171 and they became Hereditary Chief Butlers of Ireland in 1185. They became Earls in 1328, were Dukes from 1682 until 1758, and Marquesses in 1816 and again from 1825. Charles Butler was a lineal descendant of the 2nd Marquess.

John Hubert Theobald Charles Butler was born in London and raised in Uloombe in Kent, where his father, the Rev Lord James Butler, was rector until 1923. His mother, Annabella Reid Gordon, also came from a church family, her father being rector of Chetwynd, Salop.

He was educated at Haileybury and Sandhurst and commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Too young to serve at the front in the First World War, he was confined to the Isle of Sheppey where he stayed with the reserve battalion until he was 19. In May 1918 he travelled with his regiment to France, but after four months he was gassed and ended the war in hospital.

Subsequently he served for three years with the Army of Occupation, was awarded a military MBE, but was then ordered to join a battalion of his regiment in Rawalpindi.

He disliked India and his chance of promotion was poor. He therefore left the Army and joined his sister and her husband in China. Again his prospects were poor, so he

accepted the offer of an influential American to work in the United States.

To achieve this, he travelled home to Britain on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and joined his family in Bournemouth, where he stayed until 1928, at which point he was able to be part of the allowed quota of immigrants to America. He remained there for the rest of his life, and, though engaged in a number of trading activities, he retained the look of a soldier. In America he did not use his title and was always called Charles Butler.

At this point in his life, he was sixth in line to be Marquess and it never occurred to him that he would succeed to the title. He did so because the son of the 5th Marquess died aged 23 in 1940, the 6th Marquess had only girls, and his own elder brother died with no children in 1945.

He married twice. His first wife was Nan, daughter of Garth Gilpin, of Riverside, Illinois. They were married in 1935 and had two daughters. She died in 1973 and three years later he married another American, Mrs Elizabeth Liles, daughter of Charles B. Rarden. She died in Ninsdale, Illinois, in 1980. He is survived by his two daughters.

The Marquessate dies with him, but he will be succeeded in the Earldom of Ormonde by another member of the Butler family. This is probably 17th Viscount Mountgarret, but the succession will have to be proved.

DR STANLEY ELLISON

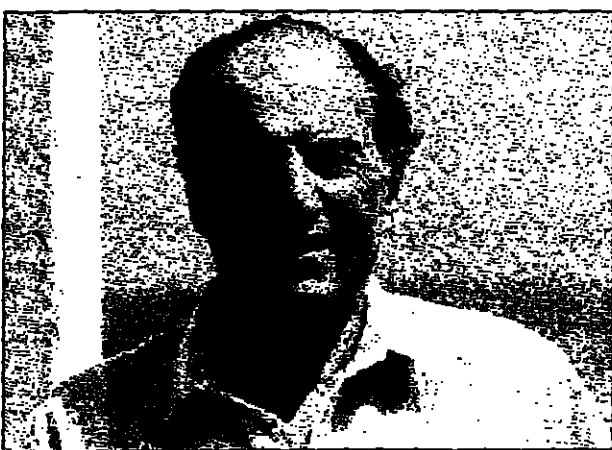
Stanley Ellison, founder of Family and Youth Concern, died on October 5 aged 73. He was born on August 4, 1924.

THROUGH his medical practice in the 1960s, Stanley Ellison came increasingly to believe that many patients were suffering not from unavoidable medical conditions, but from the consequences of breakdown in family life. His concern duly led to the foundation of Family and Youth Concern, which campaigned to halt this erosion of traditional values and to draw attention to its effects.

Stanley Esmond Ellison was born in London and educated at Highgate School, before being evacuated to Australia with his mother and brother in 1940. There he was attracted to general medical practice, through the influence of his uncle, who was a doctor in a working-class district of Melbourne.

Ellison began reading medicine at Melbourne University, but on the family's return to England he took his degree at Charing Cross Hospital, where he won the medal for best student of his year.

After graduating he soon built a flourishing practice in North-West London, specialising in women and children, but at the end of the 1960s he switched to occupational medicine. He joined a clinic on an industrial estate in Harlesden, which also served the Central Middlesex and



Royal Free hospitals. He became its director, and for 20 years until his retirement in 1984 was responsible for the welfare of a large workforce. He was a fine diagnostician, and believed in the unique importance of each individual in his care.

By the end of the 1960s, some of the side-effects of a decade of personal liberation were beginning to show up in doctors' surgeries. Ellison wrote a letter to *The Times*, beginning "Is it not about time... and ending"... before it was too late. Published on October 11, 1969, it deplored some of the trends of the age as demoralising the community, and pointed to what he saw as the indisputable symptoms: "Venereal disease is increasing. Termination of pregnancy is increasing. Drug addiction is increasing. Hoagism is increasing. Smoking is increasing. Gambling is increasing."

The letter called for "men and women who believe in the decent way of life" to "step forward and say so". The response was such that a society, first called the Responsible Society, was formed in 1971, with the aim of promoting a sound sexual morality based on medical and educational research.

During the 1970s, Ellison and the Responsible Society campaigned against the encouragement to sexual gratification aimed at boys and girls by teenage magazines, which were discussing sexual techniques in increasingly vivid detail. Family and Youth Concern went on to protest at the Government's use of taxpayers' money to support bodies such as the Family Planning Information Service, which it saw as working not for those

who were planning families, but to promote "sexual intercourse at the earliest possible opportunity". The British Medical Council became another of Ellison's targets, for making it a policy to overrule the wishes of parents when girls wished to receive contraceptive advice in secret. He was outraged to find that the BMA's policy was that "the sexual activity of an individual is so personal that it should not be a subject to be controlled by others".

In 1992, Ellison was one of a group of doctors who accused the Brook Advisory Centres of threatening the health of girls below the age of consent by prescribing the Pill without telling their GPs. The centres, they said, were ignoring a written warning from a Birmingham coroner that GPs should be informed before contraceptives were issued. He had given this warning after holding an inquest into a 12-year-old who had died while on the Pill. The girl's mother had previously had a heart attack while taking the contraceptive, and the girl had been advised not to take it by her own doctor.

More recently, after the murder of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence, Ellison supported the campaign started in *The Times* by Lawrence's widow, calling for more attention to be paid to discipline and for more public support for the family.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda, and two daughters.

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ARTHUR TRACY

Arthur Tracy, popular singer, died in New York on October 6 aged 97. He was born in Ukraine on June 25, 1900.

DURING the 1930s and early 1940s there were few more famous radio and recording stars than Arthur Tracy. With his suave style and extremely sentimental ballads he captured the hearts of housewives across America and later in Britain. His voice was somewhere between a baritone and a tenor — he himself described it as a "baritenor". He claimed that his biggest influence had been the opera singer Enrico Caruso, and that even as a child he had spent most of his pocket money on Caruso records.

Born Abraham Tratselski in the Ukraine, he emigrated to Philadelphia at the age of six with his parents. The family was poor, and he received little education and no musical training. Asked in an interview how he had come to be known as "The Street Singer", he claimed that he had sung in the streets for pennies to help his family; one of his most enduring and profitable hits in his career was *Pennies from Heaven*, later to be used as the theme tune for Dennis Potter's television series and film.

After taking first place in a singing competition he was spotted by the powerful theatre producers the Schuberts, and subsequently played leading roles on tour in light



operettas such as *The Student Prince* and *Blossom Time*. He also appeared in vaudeville with such stars as Will Rogers, W. C. Fields and Cissy Rose Lee.

He was quickly noticed by Columbia Records who put him under contract. A stream of hits followed, memorable among them *Maria* and such other syrupy confections as *Roses of Picardy*, *It's a Sin to*

Tell a Lie, *It's my Mother's Birthday Today*, *Just a Poor Street Singer* and *In a Cypriot Tea Room*. The 78s were available everywhere, together with the song sheets which sold in their thousands.

Tracy's forte was radio, particularly American commercial programmes, where he appeared with such names as Groucho Marx, Jack Benny and Bing Crosby, who was

considered to be a rival. In Hollywood he made a guest appearance in *The Big Broadcast* in 1932, and then came to Britain to top the bill at the London Palladium the same year. His picture still hangs in the Palladium Hall of Fame.

He made numerous tours in Britain, mainly for the powerful Moss Empire Circuit, topping the bill above such names as Vic Oliver and Billy Bennett. For a while Britain became his second home. He scored a notable success in the film *Limelight* in 1936 alongside Anna Neagle; it was followed by *The Street Singer* with Margaret Lockwood (1937) and *Follow Your Star* with Lili Palmer in 1938.

He returned to the United States in 1940 but gradually his style of singing came to be regarded as passé, and he was virtually forced into retirement. During the 1960s, however, he was almost rediscovered, much to his delight. Record companies both in the United States and the United Kingdom started to re-release his material, and he was in constant demand on television and radio talk shows. Flourishing fan clubs gave him publicity and he was a regular visitor to Britain where ageing housewives would flock to Heathrow airport still asking for his autograph and presenting him with small gifts. In 1996 he was awarded a gold CD to mark the huge sales of his records over 60 years.

He was married three times.

Church news

New Dean of Truro

The Rev Michael Munn, Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor, has been appointed Dean of Truro Cathedral in succession to the Very Rev David Shearlock, who resigns on December 31.

Other appointments

The Rev Christine Allsopp, Team Vicar, Bracknell (Oxford), to be Team Rector, Bourne Valley (Salisbury).

The Rev Rodney Biddle, Priest-in-Charge, Shrewsbury St George of Cappadocia (Lichfield), to be Rector, Newport with Longford, Chenny and Forton (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Bowen, Assistant Curate, Gloucester St James and All Saints (Gloucester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Woodchester (same diocese).

The Rev John Buckley, Vicar, Wenworth (Sheffield), to be Christian Aid Co-ordinator for South

and East Yorkshire (same diocese). The Rev Lalshini Deshpande, Assistant Curate, Long Eaton St John (Derby), to be Chaplain, Trent University (Southwell).

The Rev Bruce Driver, Vicar, Rickmansworth St Mary the Virgin (St Albans), to be Vicar, Northwood Hills St Edmund the King (London).

The Rev Grantley Finlayson, Team Vicar, West Slough (Oxford), to be Diocesan Officer for Race Relations (Gloucester).

The Rev Diana Halliday, NSM, Harden and Wilden (Bradford), to be Priest-in-Charge, Cullingworth (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Harrop, Deputy Chaplain, HMP Brixton (Southwark), to be Chaplain, Taichung St James (Taiwan).

The Rev Stephen Hillwood, Assistant Curate, Aston (Sheffield), to be Kimberworth Park St John (same diocese).

The Rev Nicholas Horton, Vicar,

Middleton St Mary the Virgin, and Rural Dean of Arnhem (Ripon), to be Vicar, Kirby-on-the-Moor, Cundall with North-le-Cray and Shelton-on-Newby (same diocese).

The Rev Margaret Jackson, Assistant Curate, Hatcham St Catherine (Southwark), to be Vicar, Mottingham St Edward the Confessor (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Jones, Curate, Devonport St Aubyn (Exeter), to be Priest-in-Charge, Yealmington and Brixton (same diocese).

The Rev Roy Kilford, Chaplain, Fapton (Cypriot & The Gulf), to be Priest-in-Charge, Doddington, Newnham with Wyching, Lynwood with Kingsdown, and Norton (Cambridge).

Melanie King, to be Industrial Chaplain, Birmingham, working within the ecumenical team of the Churches Industrial Group (Birmingham).

Sister Susan Sharpley, CA, to be Assistant Minister, Reddish St Paul (Southwark), September 30.

Stephen (Worcester) with special responsibility for children's work.

Retirements and resignations The Rev Brian Dorrington, Rector, Kilkhampton with Morwenston, and Rural Dean of Stratton (Truro), to retire on November 30.

The Rev Ian Firmstone, Team Vicar, Stanground with Facet (Ely), to retire on November 30.

The Rev Graham Palmer, Vicar, Fulham St Alban with St Augustine (London), retired October 31.

The Rev John Prothero, Rector, Willoughby-on-the-Wolds with Weyall and Widmerpool (Southwark), to retire on December 31.

Canon Richard Thomson, Vicar, Reigate St Mary Magdalene (Southwark), retires December 6.

The Rev Owen Swan, Rector, Holywell and Needingworth (Ely), to retire on December 9.

The Rev Michael Winstanley, Vicar, Battersea St Peter and St Paul (Southwark), September 30.

TAXI-CAB DRIVERS' DECISION

SIX THOUSAND MEN OUT ON STRIKE

The difficulty in the London taxi-cab industry became much more serious yesterday, as the result of a mass meeting of the drivers which was held at the Empress Theatre at Earl's Court, where, after a warning from the chairman as to the gravity of the step they were taking, the men decided unanimously and enthusiastically not to return to work until certain that their grievances have been amicably settled.

The special "stop-note" which had been circulated among taxi-cab drivers on the previous day ordered all drivers who were working for federated masters or other firms who were adopting the same attitude to cease work, in order that they might attend the meeting at Earl's Court. Drivers who are also owners of their own cabs, and drivers employed by small proprietors, who are working in accord with their men, were exempt from this order and were supplied with permits, which ensured their freedom from molestation or interference. The cabs thus exempted, numbering in all about 1,000 or

ON THIS DAY

November 3, 1911

London taxi-cab drivers were angry that a driver sacked by a Masters' Federation employer was boycotted by the rest of the federation and was unable to work.

1,500, out of London's 7,000 taxi-cabs, duly made their appearance yesterday morning flying a small flag marked, "Permit. London Cabdrivers' Trade Union". While the London streets were thus not entirely devoid of taxi-cabs, the small supply available was nothing like sufficient to meet the demands of the traffic in the earlier part of the day. At the railway stations there was scarcely a motor-cab to be found, while in thoroughfares such as Queen Victoria-street, the morning traffic had shrunk to a mere fraction of its usual activity. One of the most noticeable features was the sudden re-appearance of the horded cabs. At many of the ranks

there was a reversion to the conditions of ten years ago, a long row of four-wheeled and hansom cabs standing where previously there had been taxi-cabs. The command of the trade union was implicitly obeyed, and the yards of the big companies attached to the Masters' Federation remained idle throughout the day.

The decision of the men not to resume work was particularly trying for those who wished to visit the theatres last night, especially as the weather was anything but favourable. At 8 o'clock the Trafalgar-square rank was deserted, while in the Haymarket only two motor-cabs, each of them displaying the official permit, were to be found. Piccadilly-circus and Shaftesbury-avenue were better provided, though horse cabs predominated.

Some of the more enterprising theatres had arranged during the day for a contingent of "permit" cabs to be in attendance at the end of the evening, and their forethought was justified. At 11 o'clock, of 35 cabs on the Leicester-square ranks not one was a taxi-cab, while in Shaftesbury-avenue only five cabs, two of them motor-cabs, were on the rank. In Trafalgar-square the rank was untenanted, and in Northumberland-avenue there was one solitary hansom cab. From the hotels and theatres in the Strand there was much whistling for taxi-cabs, but hardly one was obtained.

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

TRUE CHAMPION

Sampras confirms his place as the world's best tennis player
PAGE 26

TWIN IMPOSTORS

The end of rugby league's love affair with Wembley
PAGE 33

WINNER ON MERIT

Rain and reign again in Spain for Montgomerie
PAGE 26

FAIR GAME

Rob Hughes discovers the allure of boxing for women
PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 3 1997

SOUTHAMPTON SHOW THEY ARE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Le Tissier, rarely regarded as an aerial menace among Premiership defences, produces an emphatic header from Hirst's cross to set Southampton on course for victory yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Kendall's mood darkened by false dawn over Goodison

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE murk of a dank Merseyside afternoon, the jeers echoed around Goodison Park again yesterday. After the euphoria of their win over Liverpool a fortnight ago, a victory that promised to herald the start of better things, the despondency and disillusion that has been the staple diet of every Evertonian in recent seasons invaded again as they slid to an ignominious defeat against Southampton.

The assuredness and passion of that triumph over their near-neighbours might have led some of the home supporters to expect a repeat of the 7-1 rout Everton inflicted on their visitors from the South Coast last season, but instead they were out-fought and outplayed by the team managed by their former player, Dave Jones.

The win, courtesy of a rare header from Matt Le Tissier and a brilliant individual goal from Kevin Davies either side of half-time, was characterised by long periods of drudgery, misplaced passes and ineffective long balls pumped towards Duncan Ferguson. It lifted Southampton over their victims to sixth in the FA Cup Premier League and suggested that some sort of renaissance may indeed be beginning at The Dell.

Until they paid Sheffield Wednesday £2 million for David Hirst two weeks ago, Southampton had shown every sign of competing with Barnsley for the privilege of being the whipping boys of the division. The presence of Hirst, though, who looks a player rejuvenated, appears to have given his new team fresh belief and yesterday they were superior in all departments.

Carlton Palmer, in particular, was outstanding at the centre of the

	EVERTON	SOUTHAMPTON
Score	0	2
Le Tissier 24		
Davies 54		
Attendance: 29,505		

visitors' midfield. He ran and tackled tirelessly, he broke up one Everton attack after another and was a constant threat when Southampton broke forward with pace and incisiveness. Davies got the man-of-the-match champagne, but it should have been Palmer's bottle.

For Everton, though, it looks as though it really is going to be a long, hard season battling against relegation. Danny Cadamarteri, such a revelation with five goals from his past seven games, was anonymous against Claus Lundekvam and Ken Monkou and the Everton midfield was second to everything.

"It is desperately disappointing," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said. "Everybody was coming to the ground today expecting a pretty convincing victory, especially

after the 7-1 here last season, but we were second to the ball and we were not strong enough. We got some stick from the crowd at the end and the spectators were right to voice their disapproval.

"That sort of thing hurts. It hurts the players and it hurts everyone connected with the club. After the Liverpool game, they expected a good performance, but they did not get it. Derby games are one-offs. We lifted ourselves on that occasion, but looking at it today, it does not seem as though we can lift ourselves consistently.

"It is a concern, but people build up results like the derby. As a manager, you do not think everything is rosy just because of one result. Today, there were too many players who had an off-day. We chased the game in

the wrong manner. It was long ball and people bombing forward. We made it more comfortable for Southampton the way we tried to retrieve the game."

Southampton looked comfortable, too. After a dull start, enlivened only by Cadamarteri's jinking run in the first minute that ended with a shot that whistled just wide, Southampton stunned the home crowd when they took the lead midway through the half with a goal that seemed to have everything.

It started when Palmer chased 50 yards across the pitch to stop Oster in his tracks with a beautifully timed tackle. He took two steps and sprayed a fine 40-yard ball out to Hirst on the right. Hirst took it down on his chest, waited for support to arrive in the centre and then picked out Le Tissier with a curling cross. Le Tissier sneaked in behind Short and in front of Southall and nodded home.

Southampton nearly went further ahead in the 32nd minute, but Southall clawed Monkou's shot away with an acrobatic right-handed save that belied his 39 years. Then, on the stroke of half-time, Ferguson came

close to equalising when he met Hinchliffe's cross at the back post, but saw his header bounce away off the underside of the crossbar.

After the interval, Everton played with renewed vigour, but they missed another chance to equalise in the 53rd minute. Again, it was a cross from Hinchliffe that caused the problems, but when Stuart laid the ball back to Williamson, his shot was blocked by Jones. It rebounded to Stuart but his effort bounced away off the goalkeeper, too.

A minute later, Davies, one of the heroes of Chesterfield's FA Cup run last season, equalised Southampton's victory. He picked the ball up near the halfway line, shrugged off Oster

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and, as Oakley made a fine diversionary run, clipped a right-foot shot wide of Southall.

Everton poured forward after that and Williamson saw a 20-yard volley fly just wide of Jones's right-hand post in the 57th minute. Gradually, though, as the luck failed to materialise, Everton heads went down and they appeared increasingly impatient. By the end, Southampton's substitute attackers, Slater and Basham, were queuing up for chances in the box and Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, was preparing himself for another rough ride back to the boardroom.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N. Southall — E. Barrett (sub: T. Phelan, 67 min), C. Short, D. Watson, A. Hinchliffe — G. Stuart, D. Williamson, G. Speed, J. Crow — D. Cadamarteri (sub: M. Branch, 67), D. Ferguson.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): P. Jones — J. Dodd, C. Lundekvam, K. Monkou, F. Barrell — C. Palmer, K. Richardson, M. Oakley (sub: A. Nelson, 63) — M. Le Tissier (sub: R. Slater, 75) — D. Hirst (sub: S. Basham, 67), N. Davies.
Referee: A. White.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	13	8	4	1	29	7	28
Arsenal	13	8	4	1	27	13	24
Blackburn	13	6	6	1	23	11	24
Chelsea	12	7	1	4	27	16	22
Leicester	13	6	4	3	19	15	22
Derby	13	6	2	5	16	13	20
Liverpool	12	6	2	5	16	13	20
Sheff Wed	12	5	3	5	15	15	17
Wolves	12	5	3	5	15	15	17
Crystal Palace	13	4	4	5	12	14	16
West Ham	13	3	7	3	10	14	16
Coventry	12	4	5	3	12	14	15
Sheff Utd	13	4	2	7	12	18	14
Nottingham	13	3	4	6	11	17	13
Tottenham	13	4	1	8	13	20	13
Southampton	12	3	3	6	13	18	12
Everton	13	2	1	10	10	16	12
Bolton	12	2	6	4	10	16	12
Barnsley	13	2	1	10	10	36	10
Sheff Wed	13	2	3	8	18	36	9



Davies ends a bewitching run by firing home Southampton's second

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At The Live Centre



GOLF: MONTGOMERIE LIFTS ORDER OF MERIT FOR FIFTH TIME WITHOUT HITTING A BALL

Westwood takes title by storm

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN JEREZ

WITH scarcely a ball being struck, two of golf's outstanding issues were resolved on this inclement and damp plain in Spain yesterday. Hours of heavy rain interspersed with bolts of lightning caused play at the Montecastillo course to be abandoned and so Lee Westwood, the leader after three rounds of the Volvo Masters, was declared the winner, ending a remarkable season for the 24-year-old.

This year has been no less remarkable in Europe for Colin Montgomerie. By finishing eighth in the tournament, Montgomerie captured a fifth successive European Order of Merit title. No one has done that before, not Tony Jacklin, not Severiano Ballesteros.

Westwood's 16-under-par total was good enough for victory by three strokes over Padraig Harrington. The accumulated prize-money and bonus money for competing in this end-of-season event took him to third in the Order of Merit.

Westwood was impressed. One of his many winning characteristics is that he has not yet become blasé. "I looked at the cheque and thought: 'Blimey, it's £166,000,'" he said. "That's a lot of money, especially when I am only 24 years old. I am going to have to think of things to spend it on."

Montgomerie all but made sure of the Order of Merit title with a round of 71, one under par, on Saturday. That was when Darren Clarke, one rival, crashed to a 77 and Bernhard Langer, another, had a 74. These two were, respectively, third and second in the Order of Merit at the start of the tournament, but after these rounds they ceased to be a threat to Montgomerie. In the end, Langer ended £106,500 behind Montgomerie in second place in the Order of Merit, while Clarke was overtaken by Westwood and was pushed down to fourth.

There is a symmetry at work in the best player in Europe and the best young player in Europe being the two central figures yesterday. This morning Montgomerie is expected to announce that his schedule next year will involve him playing many more events in the United States, while Westwood is one of the brightest stars who remains behind in Europe. In a sense a torch is being



Westwood is delighted as he holds the trophy after winning the Volvo Masters in weather-hit Jerez yesterday

handed over from Montgomerie to Westwood and, if there is one wish as it is being done, it is that Montgomerie will indeed move up to a new level and win the major championship that has so far eluded him and that Westwood will continue the upward rocketing progress that he has made so far. He was 75th in the Order of Merit in 1995, sixth last year, third this year.

Montgomerie leaves his home continent with his golf at a higher level than ever. "If my golf was six out of ten when I won my first Order of Merit in 1993, then now it is up to nine out of ten," Montgomerie said. "I have an incredible desire to succeed and perhaps that is my greatest asset. That is what has kept me going throughout my ten years as a professional."

That desire and drive has never wilted. OK, I hit more fairways and more greens now than I did before and I drive it straighter than I did, but my desire to succeed is my greatest asset."

"I have had to improve year by year. If I had stood still, I would have been overtaken. The standard has increased

Love stays on course

DAVIS LOVE III ensured that the race for the US PGA Tour money title would be settled on the final day of the season when he moved into a four-way share of the lead after the third round of the \$4 million Tour Championship in Houston, Texas.

Love shot a respectable two-under-par 69, just one stroke

and I have increased with it." Montgomerie pointed out, with justifiable pride, that he had not missed a halfway cut in any event anywhere in the world this year. "I have never done that before."

Ten years ago, Montgomerie missed the cut in his first tournament as a professional, the Swiss Open.

more than the day's best score in a stiff north-easterly wind at the Champions Course. He joined Bill Glasson (68), Brad Faxon (69) and David Duval (70) — a trio of fellow Americans — at eight-under-205, two shots clear of compatriots Mark Calcavecchia (72), Jim Furyk (73) and the halfway leader, Scott Hoch (74).

TOP ON MERIT

With his fifth successive victory in the European Order of Merit, Colin Montgomerie passes Peter Oosterhuis's record of four victories between 1971 and 1974 and Severiano Ballesteros's three in 1976, 1977 and 1978. He has won over £6 million during his career in Europe, playing in 242 tournaments, averaging 70.69 strokes per round and a total of 778 under par.

EUROPE'S 56th MAN

Earnings (£)	Ranking
1987: 2,051	164
1988: 66,045	52
1989: 122,072	25
1990: 178,981	14
1991: 493,822	4
1992: 545,414	3
1993: 798,145	1
1994: 820,647	1
1995: 1,038,718	1
1996: 1,034,752	1
1997: 788,948	1

CHANGING ORDER

Those left trailing in Montgomerie's wake

1993: 2 N Faldut 3 I Woodsam
4 B Langer 5 S Torrance
1994: 2 B Langer 3 S Ballesteros
4 JM Glaszabel
5 MA Aménaz
1995: 2 S Torrance 3 B Langer
4 C Rocca 5 M Campbell
1996: 2 I Woodsam 3 R Allent
4 C Rocca 5 M McNulty
1997: 2 B Langer 3 I Westwood
4 D Clarke 5 I Woodsam

Sampras demonstrates his staying power

TENNIS

JULIAN MUSCAT

reports from
Paris

IF NOT the most important, this was certainly one of the most career-defining weeks in the career of Pete Sampras. His defeat of Jonas Bjorkman in the final of the Paris Open yesterday all but ensured that he would close the season as the world No 1 for the fifth consecutive year. It also capped a tournament in which his physical and mental resilience underlined just why he stands atop the highest mountain.

Absurd though it may sound, Bjorkman was probably the least dangerous opponent to confront Sampras all week. Although the Swede fully merits his berth in the world top ten, Sampras's path was treacherous in the extreme. Few players could survive early skirmishes with Boris Becker and Petr Korda, never mind cope with Thomas Muster when, plainly, restricted by injury.

After that, a successful scan on the offending right arm fortified Sampras against an inspired Yevgeni Kafelnikov in the semi-finals. And there was an air of inevitability about him mastering Bjorkman in the final. For all the latter's fight and spirit, he was comprehensively outplayed.

Bear in mind that Sampras, supported by painkillers through the week, had plenty to contemplate when struggling against Muster on Friday night. The ATP Tour world championship begins in Hanover a week on Tuesday and Sampras must later spearhead the United States' assault on the Davis Cup final in Sweden. Instead, he showed his mettle when others in his precarious state might well have opted to default.

"I am very tired, both physically and mentally," Sampras conceded afterwards. "The only thing on my mind now is to go home and rest before Hanover."

Sampras allowed Bjorkman to show only fleeting glimpses of the form that has made him one of the most improved players this year. The Swede staged a splendid counter-attack in the second set, when he retrieved an early break with interest to level the contest. This second set marked the sweetest passage of the match, Bjorkman countering Sampras's superior service with returns of real spite.

greater relevance is the fact that he has triumphed in all nine matches against top-ten opposition this year. In downing Bjorkman here, he also registered a psychological advantage for their meeting in the Davis Cup later this month.

Bjorkman will usurp Greg Rusedski as the world No 4 when the rankings are updated today. While his place in the world championship is secure, those prepared to trade in remote permutations maintain that Rusedski remains inches short of the finishing line in the race to Hanover. A number of calculations make it mathematically possible for Rusedski to be caught, but the Great Britain No 1 will today eliminate any semblance of doubt if he beats Nicklas Pietrangeli, ranked No 130, in the first round of the Scandia Stockholm Open.

Even in defeat, Rusedski, seeded No 2 in Stockholm, will almost certainly qualify for Hanover. Of more importance in his mind will be the attractive draw he has been handed in Sweden — and the potential to travel to Hanover on a high. The other seeds in his half of the draw — Carlos Moya, Alex Corretja and Thomas Enqvist — are eminently beatable. Tim Heuman, seeded No 8 in Stockholm, today plays a qualifier for a place in the second round.



Sampras can afford to relax after defeating Bjorkman to win the Paris Open and remain top of his profession

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nottinghamshire favoured to clinch Gallian signature

CRICKET: Nottinghamshire believe they have emerged as favourites to sign Jason Gallian after more talks with the former England opening batsman in London at the weekend (Richard Hobson writes). Gallian, 26, who has left Lancashire, will choose between Nottinghamshire and Middlesex before the end of the month, with Glamorgan considered outsiders.

Nottinghamshire will join Kent, Sussex and Northamptonshire in the chase for Chris Adams, the Derbyshire batsman, if Gallian, who made the last of his three Test appearances two years ago, opts for Middlesex.

Kagwe conquers Big Apple

ATHLETICS: John Kagwe, of Kenya, who ran the last couple of miles with a loose shoelace, raced away from the dual former champion, German Silva, of Mexico, to win the New York City Marathon yesterday in 2hr 5min 12sec, only 11sec outside the course record. Kagwe, fifth in 1995 and fourth last year, is the third Kenyan winner but the first since Douglas Wakihuri in 1990. The women's race produced a surprise winner in Franziska Rochat-Moser, of Switzerland.

Pollock subdues Pakistan

CRICKET: Shaun Pollock took four wickets in 13 balls, including three in his first over, as South Africa earned a thrilling nine-run win over Pakistan in the second match of the quadrangular one-day tournament in Lahore yesterday. An inspired 85 by Inzamam-ul-Haq, 59 by Moin Khan and 59 off 43 balls by Azhar Mahmood took Pakistan to 262 for nine from their 50 overs. South Africa's total of 271 was largely due to 89 by Gary Kirsten and 51 by Daryll Cullinan.

EQUESTRIANISM: MICHAEL WHITAKER ENCOURAGED BY TWO STEP'S RETURN

Cruising sails over all obstacles

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN MILLSTREET, CO. CORK

TREVOR COYLE, riding Cruising, the darling of the home crowd, prompted tumultuous scenes round the Millstreet arena when he won the Volvo World Cup qualifier here late on Saturday evening after two faultless rounds. It was the first Irish win in the competition since Jessica Chesney's success on Diamond Exchange in the inaugural event in 1992.

Coyle, who finished nearly a second ahead of Helena Weinberg, of Germany, on Ferdinand — despite having to go first in the five-horse jump-off — was visibly relieved at the outcome. "I felt under pressure because I've had so many second places recently. He's a great horse — he's got all the

scope and he can always get me out of trouble," he said of Mary McCann's 12-year-old stallion.

Cruising's ability had made the fences look deceptively easy, even though the course, designed by Frank Rothenberger, of Germany, took a heavy toll, with many of the 55 starters clearly out of their depth.

Of the 11 Britons in the class, none reached the jump-off and only two — John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Hunter's Level, and Michael Whitaker, on Virtual Village Two Step — completed on four faults.

The Whitakers, nevertheless, were both well satisfied. Michael was delighted with Two Step's return to international competition after an absence of nearly 12 months through injury. "It's like hav-

ing a new horse," he said, a feeling confirmed when Two Step finished a close second in the Dairygold Grand Prix yesterday, which Whitaker might have won but for nearly being dislodged at the third fence.

For the Irish-bred Hunter's Level, the 12-fence course for the qualifier was the biggest he has yet encountered. John Whitaker had been taken aback when he walked it. "It's the most difficult I've seen at Millstreet," he said.

The most surprising of the British failures was Nick Skelton's on an unusually mischievous Zalta, who was eliminated after three refusals at the ninth fence. Skelton then found himself hauled before the jury after a sharp smack he gave Zalta, which resulted in the German-bred

gelding bolting to the other end of the arena, flattening one of the stewards in the process. A penitent Skelton was absolved when he apologised and confirmed that he had not deliberately set his horse at the steward.

After five qualifiers, Britain still has no rider in the top 20 of the Volvo World Cup rankings — from which the top 19 go to the final in Sweden in April. Robert Smith, who gained 11 points for sixth place in Amsterdam last month, is the leading Briton at No 29. Michael Whitaker, though, is hopeful of altering the picture next weekend. As a result of Two Step's confident performances here, he will now take him to the Brussels International Show for the sixth of the 15 World Cup qualifying rounds.

HOCKEY: ENGLAND MEN WIN IN EGYPT AS WOMEN ARE SHOCKED AT HOME

Dancer waltzes into new job with victory

A NEW era of English hockey began in Cairo last night with a 3-1 victory for the men's team, under the guidance of the Australian coach, Barry Dancer, over the Egyptian Presidents XI (Sydney Friskin writes).

Two days of strenuous practice seemed to have paid off with the England team getting quickly into their stride to establish a 2-0 lead at the interval. However, the Egyptians, composed almost entirely of players from the national side, were not easy to subdue and their forwards were quick to retaliate.

In fact, the England defence was severely tested and Mason in goal made two smart saves to preserve the lead that Crutchley, a substitute for-

marked Wyatt to put the finishing touch. By the time that the first half ended, England had forced eight short corners and conceded three.

In the second half, Luckes, who had replaced Mason in goal, saved a hard shot from the outside left, Sameir Mohamed. The Egyptians forced a short corner in the 49th minute and Mohamed Yaser scored with a scoop high into the net.

Suddenly, England were under pressure, which was relieved when Garcia broke free to earn a short corner from which the goalkeeper saved off Crutchley. With ten minutes to go, there was another short corner for England and Giles at last found the target to make

South Koreans carve out ruthless revenge

ENGLAND expected some sort of backlash, but even the seasoned campaigners looked shellshocked after South Korea hit back to avenge Thursday's 4-2 defeat with a stunning 5-2 victory at Milton Keynes on Saturday (Cathy Harris writes). Guilty of squandering a succession of chances in the first contest, the Olympic silver medal-winner this time produced a ruthless display in front of the BBC television cameras.

An early penalty corner rebound goal by Tina Cullen and a skilful reverse sweep strike by Tammy Miller in the 37th minute twice gave England the lead, but the tourists hit back to equalise on both occasions through a Lee Eun Young penalty corner and Dark Kim Kwon with the

early on, then fell into increasing disarray.

Oh Seong Shin, Korea's captain and sweeper, is one of five Olympians in the squad and, at 25, she is also the oldest. Alongside her, the electrifying pace, passing and vision of her team-mates proved decisive as they swarmed on to the attack, putting England under prolonged pressure.

Three goals of the highest quality in an eight-minute burst completed an emphatic win for the visitors, who end their short European tour with a match tomorrow against Holland, the European champions and Olympic bronze medal-winner.

PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Little profit after moving goalposts

I gather Leicester rugby club is to ask supporters to cough up £2.5 million to help the club's development. Yes, the Tigers want to build up the commercial side of the club and place it on a sound financial footing. Leicester is in the process of converting to a public limited company with members having the first option on shares.

But why would anyone pump money into Leicester, when most rugby clubs appear on the verge of bankruptcy? The support is currently suffering a severe bout of post-professionalisation depression, with leading figures warning that clubs will not be able to survive. No first division club is expected to break even this season, let alone make a profit, and several of the sugar daddies bankrolling the sport have warned that they will pull out if things do not improve.

But I thought rugby had secured millions from television rights and used it to recruit top international players? Rugby certainly received an £87.5 million windfall from BSkyB for television rights, but clubs have never had to pay full-time players before and they are finding that some of the demands of leading players are a little exacting.

What a bunch of old southern hemisphere hasbeens coming to England to boost their pension rights? Something like that. It wouldn't matter if lots of paying spectators were flooding through the gates to come to see the multinational sides play, but they aren't, leaving the clubs paying football-style wages from county cricket-sized crowds.

So, what are you waiting for? Let's nip down and see our local first division side play as soon as we can. They must have a home game some time in the next fortnight.

Er... not necessarily. Most of November has been given over to internationals. They probably aren't playing at home again until the middle end of December.

That can't help to build a loyal fan base, can it? No, and it is not very good for cash flow either. The clubs still have to pay their players even when there are no games and no revenue coming in. The clubs are desperate to sort out a proper fixture list, but international commitments make it impossible to establish a structured season until 2000.

By which stage some clubs will have gone out of business? Exactly. Bristol are already on the verge of bankruptcy and others will soon follow.

So, why should fans cough up if the Tigers have run out of gas? Well, apart from loyalty, Leicester are one of the few clubs that are potentially financially viable. The club has around 13,000 members, ownership of club rugby's best ground and plenty of room to put corporate guests and sponsors.

But what about the others? They all want to follow Leicester's example. Rugby may have

not a bean
not a sausage

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Women's rights and lefts take centre stage

ROB HUGHES



on the night that boxing had to ring the changes

The trainer meant no disrespect. "You're too pretty to box," he said. She took the Budweiser bottle from her mouth, turned to show the bruised swelling beneath her left eye and responded: "Not any more, mate!" It was a real exchange in a surreal atmosphere.

The woman, Dawn North, had just outboxed her opponent over three rounds in front of a capacity audience packed into the Whitland Dairy Sports and Social Club near Carmarthen. The attraction was the first licensed female pugilism in Britain, and the contest, which lacked neither ferocity nor courage, examined our sensibilities and our approach to life, never mind sport.

Halloween night in Wales gave North the opportunity that was taken from her a month ago, when she was prevented from being the first woman to box in England because public disapproval forced the cancellation of a bill featuring 13-year-old girls in her home town, Stoke-on-Trent.

"I wanted to be the first ambassador," she said on Friday. "I felt cheated. I had trained so hard for that. I travelled five hours to get to Whitland. I've got a black eye, a nose bleed... and it feels really great. I enjoyed every second, even when she hit me."

North is no child seeking 15 minutes of fame. She is 25, has the most complete life of the four females who boxed on Friday and the most mature appreciation of why she is doing it. "I started boxing training to get fit for rugby," she said. "Now there is a dangerous sport. I've been bitten, stamped on, concussed. I've a much clearer head after three rounds of boxing than I had then."

She works in a motorcycle retailers, but is about to join the police force; she scuba dives, plays squash and has ridden her beloved Kawasaki Zx6 to 156mph on a track. Her twin ambitions are CID work and to be woman Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) champion.

The second will take time. The



"She looks like an angel, sings like a nightingale, fights like a tiger." North, attempting to give credence to her trainer's traditional use of understatement, celebrates her victory. Photograph: David Jones

English ABA, embracing the Henry Cooper argument that women are for loving not hitting, has suspended women's boxing until further notice. Wales, however, hardened by the experience of communities like Whitland, where the closure of the dairy factory put one in ten of the population on the dole, is welcoming the girls with open arms. Hence the trek west on Friday.

The sunset was spectacular, but nightfall brought a forbidding mist in which consciences were examined. Was this a peep show, or a legitimate expression of women's rights? The Taf pub up the road from the Dairy club was an arena for pre-fight debate. Disgusting, said one customer, whose son went to school with two of the contestants; turned him right off them, it has. It's their own bodies and they

know their own minds, others countered. Mostly, they discussed the Two Maries, Davies and Lee, who, as 16-year-old friends from nearby St Clears, were to be first up on the women's bill.

Abolitionists were kept at bay, though, as the community queued for first-come, first-served, £3-a-head entry. Stuart Price, the secretary of the rival Welsh Amateur Boxing Federation, forewarned: "Boxing's been forced into this by the equal opportunities law, but in five or ten years, we could find a girl damaged and having lost the ability to bear a child employing a tricky lawyer to take us all to the cleaners. I appeal to all mothers: keep your daughters away from boxing."

The mothers and fathers of this

community came in curiosity, almost like a school concert audience. Their sympathies were first aroused by a 12-year-old boy, who was startled by the feistiness of his Cardiff docklands opponent and stopped, in tears, after a minute, possibly frightened by the clamour or by the pain. At that point, you

'I've got a black eye, a nose bleed... and it feels really great. I enjoyed every second'

had to question the "character-building" notions of sport.

The bouts continued, sometimes gussy, sometimes resembling playground fights. The one before the Two Maries pitted Marcus Lee

against Ben Champion, and young Lee clearly goes at it like his sister, boring straight in: no pain, no gain. He lost, but his sister won — and, as befits her lifelong friendship, she shared laughs, looks, embraces and, eventually, tears of relief with her opponent. Their bout had been something of

a pact between college students who said they would rather be the female Prince Naseem than Spice Girls.

Flushed, but unmarked, Marie Lee insisted that it had been the best experience of her life.

She had known more fear in showjumping, a sport in which she had broken an arm, a leg and damaged her neck.

"You done me proud girls, done me proud," Mick Haines, the local

Windsor Davies, who trains the girls and put on the show, said. He then turned on the media throng: "Who bloody says it's barbaric?" he demanded. "Look at them, not a mark. I told you you won't see any bloodied noses here tonight." Moments later, the ring collapsed under the weight of the press.

When it was fixed, there was blood, a smatter of it. Dawn North had to quell a whirlwind from Rhyll, Mandy Griffiths, 21, whose father gave her a punchbag for Christmas when she was a small child. Boxing is her choice, he backs his daughter and the Griffiths want a rematch.

North is ready. She and her trainer, Fred Deakin, 67, reckon she was rushed out of her stride by Griffiths' early assault and will be quicker with the right jab next time. Doubtless ready, too, will be

John Phillips, the referee, who, after 25 years and 10,000 bouts all over the world, had never before had to step between protagonists and tuck the flowing locks of a boxer back into their headguard.

He believes that there is no harm in women boxing, especially as the rounds last only 90 seconds and the chest protectors are strong. "I referee them to the same rules as the men," he said, "otherwise, you would deny them equality."

As some wrestled with the mixed signals of perfume and perspiration, Deakin, the trainer who has seen more in boxing than most in a lifetime, departed with his Ali prediction. "I tell you, Dawn is class. She'll be champion, no bother. She looks like an angel, sings like a nightingale, fights like a tiger."

MOTOR SPORT: SCOT ENSURES WORLD TITLE WILL BE SETTLED IN RAC RALLY

McRae takes contest to the wire

COLIN MCRAE gave himself an outside chance of regaining the world rally championship when he won Rally Australia yesterday. The destiny of the title will now be decided in the final event of the season — the RAC Rally later this month.

Tommi Makinen, of Finland, finished second in Australia, after starting the day in fifth place, to consolidate his leadership in the overall standings. He has 62 points, ten more than McRae, and the Scot can only deprive Makinen of the title by winning the RAC Rally and hoping that his rival finishes outside the top six. If that happened, the pair would be level on points, but McRae would prevail because he would have five championship wins to Makinen's four.

On a dramatic last day in Perth, Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the overnight leader, retired with mechanical problems allowing McRae, 29, driving a Subaru Impreza, to win by six seconds from Makinen, in a Mitsubishi Lancer. Didier Auriol, of France, was third in a Toyota Corolla.



McRae in full flight in his Subaru Impreza on the way to winning Rally Australia

"Now I just have to give it everything I have got in the RAC Rally," McRae said. "To have a fight like this, with so much at stake, and come out on top is just fantastic. Tommi set an absolutely amazing

pace and it's been an incredible fight to the end. We gave it everything on the last stage." Makinen, the title-holder, was breathing down McRae's neck near the finish after trailing by 1min 41sec after

the second day. "It was not quite enough," he said. "I made just a few mistakes and went too wide a few times. I knew it was not mine. But the championship is still looking good."

SAILING

Turner in touch with leader

MARK TURNER, in *Carphone Warehouse*, is engaged in a close run-in to the finish of the Mini-Transat single-handed race (Edward Gorman writes). An impressive overall second place is now possible, in a boat that Turner got his hands on only two weeks before the start.

Yesterday, Turner still had more than 1,000 miles to sail to the finish at Martinique, but he was close on the heels of the second-leg leader, Thomas Coville, of France, in *Zurich*. The pair have opted for a more northerly course than the other leading boats in the 43-strong fleet and, towards the end of last week, this started to pay as they moved from third and fourth to first and second.

If Coville holds on, he may emerge the overall winner with Turner, who finished ninth in the first leg, second. The second leg from Tenerife has been characterised by light airs, which have suited Turner, whose boat demonstrated an alarming tendency to nose-dive when running in heavy conditions during the first stage from Brest.

The only other Briton in the field, and the only female, Ellen MacArthur, in *Finian's Rainbow*, has had a much less satisfactory race. She has sailed mainly in the lower orders and was yesterday fixed in 32nd place.

In the double-handed Transat Jacques Vabre race, Yves Parlier and Eric Taberly,

in *Aquitaine Innovations*, sealed victory in the monohull division on Friday when they reached the finish at Cartagena in Colombia. They covered the 4,403 nautical miles from Le Havre in 19 days and 23 hours, at an average speed of 9.18 knots.

"In single-handed races, the boat is often too difficult to handle," Parlier, who had to stop in Australia for repairs during the Vendée Globe and was dismayed during the single-handed transatlantic race last year, said. "This time, we were able to try out lots of different sail combinations and I've got a logbook full of notes for the future."

Marc Thiercelin, in *Some-where*, was second.

BOWLS

Jeffrey makes grade with Classic success

ADAM JEFFREY, 26, a graduate of the Australian Capital Territory's Academy of Sport, retained the Mandliffe Hong Kong International Classic singles championship for Australia at the Craigengower Cricket Club yesterday, defeating David Le Marquand, of Jersey, 25-17 in a 29-end final (David Rhys Jones writes).

Last year, the event — one of the world's most prestigious tournaments — was won by John Noonan, of Adelaide, who ended a ten-year famine for Australian players. With Noonan unavailable this year, the Australia selectors opted for youth, sending Jef-

frey, a bowls equipment retailer, and Mark Jacobsen, 29, who should be strong contenders for the pairs, which starts today.

Stuart Airey, of England, assumed the role of favourite after dismissing David Gourlay, the 1996 world indoor champion, from Scotland, with surprising ease, 25-8, in the quarter-finals. However, he was quickly in arrears and could not complete a recovery against Le Marquand, who took a 21-9 lead after 17 ends of their semi-final. Airey closed the gap to six shots before the Channel Islander claimed the winning single on the 25th end.

ATHLETICS: STEPHENSON BENEFITS FROM FRESH FUNDS AND NEW CHALLENGE

Reebok keeps sport running

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STAFF at the British Athletic Federation (BAF) offices in Birmingham arrive for work this morning wondering how many of them will be on the receiving end of dreaded news. The BAF, having declared itself insolvent three weeks ago, is intending to inform employees of any redundancies today.

It was with some irony, then, that the first BAF promotion since the administrators were called in was held at the weekend. If the impression had been given, from media coverage of the crisis, that the sport in Britain had ground to a halt, here was proof that the heart still beats and there is money for some.

The first meeting in the Reebok Cross Challenge, a much-needed domestic grand prix cross country series, was held at Hengrove Park, Bristol. Furthermore, at a time when £630,000 is owed to 90 Great Britain athletes for their appearances in the domestic summer meetings,

cash rewards were paid to seniors and juniors. Reebok has put in £75,000 into the six-race series, of which £45,000 is prize money.

David Moorcroft, the BAF chief executive, said, when disclosing that insolvency practitioners had been called in, that "for 99.9 per cent of people in athletics, business will carry on as normal". And so it has. The AAA of England road relay championships proved a great success and, such were the looks of approval on the faces of federation workers at Bristol, you would think they had been told they have jobs for life.

Now that Moorcroft has had time to assess the damage, he gives the sport a year to establish a workable structure before the 99.9 per cent suffer any serious consequences of earlier mismanagement. "There will be an effect, but hopefully not too great," he said.

While federation bank accounts have been frozen, the events department has been unable to plan the domestic and international indoor pro-

gramme, but it has had what Moorcroft described as "a strong behind-the-scenes involvement" in organising the road relays and Reebok Cross Challenge.

"It does show that, even in this gradual dismantling of the federation — the committees, the commissions and the work they do — things can continue," Moorcroft said. "The part of the sport that is being affected immediately is cross country because things

will be in place to support track and field next summer."

How timely, therefore, the grand prize, with new money that escaped the black hole. The rewards ensure that the top British athletes compete against each other, giving them good racing opportunities and making selection for the European championships next month less complicated. It was noticeable in Bristol that most leading under-20 athletes were there in a year when so few ran 5,000 metres on the track that the event did not merit a ranking list.

Tim Hutchings, a former world championship silver medal-winner, took particular delight in seeing Christian Stephenson win the opening senior race, enabling the part-time cleaner to bank enough money to finance his overseas winter training. "Christian is the perfect example of the sort of young British athlete who needs financial help," Hutchings said. "This series is designed to support athletes like him. He has got talent that he has not been able to develop."

Moorcroft: targets set



Moorcroft: targets set

BASKETBALL

Gulf in class is telling factor

THE gulf between Budweiser League teams and the rest was never more graphically emphasised than at the weekend, when the last two first division survivors went out of the National Cup after being overwhelmed at home (Nicholas Hartling writes).

Plymouth Raiders had already suffered a 22-point home defeat by London Towers when their contemporaries, Stevenage Rebels and Coventry Crusaders, embarked on a morale-restoring mission on Saturday.

Both clubs failed by a wide margin. The Rebels were beaten 93-60 by Manchester Giants and the Crusaders lost 91-64 to Thames Valley Tigers. Charles Adams, the Rebels'

American coach, knows only too well the influence his compatriots can have on a result. They were playing five paid foreign players, he said. "These are five Americans who have been playing and practising together all through the season, whereas we have a group who train twice a week. That's why they had quite an advantage."

Will Kelly is the only American in the Rebel squad. He works on aircraft at the United States base at Mildenhall and Stevenage — for whom he sank ten points on Saturday — were simply the most conveniently situated club for him to join.

An Englishman, John Burnell, salvaged the one

glimmer of hope for the Rebels, when, with the first of two three-pointers he sparked a 10-3 burst in the first half, trimming the Giants' advantage to 13-12.

They were forced to raise their game, with Robert Churchwell and Michael Brown leading the victory parade on 21 points and 19, respectively.

The story was much the same at Coventry, where Thames Valley Tigers joined the Giants, Towers, Worthing Bears and Leicester Riders in the second round.

Led by 31 points from Ben Cayton, the Bears finally overcame the plucky resistance of Crystal Palace with a 106-102 victory in overtime.

Britain's two surviving Uefa Cup teams have problems aplenty before tomorrow's games

Fowler's folly costs Liverpool dear

Feeble Villa left to debate their fading fortunes



**BOLTON WANDERERS 1
LIVERPOOL 1**
By Michael Henderson

ROY EVANS has been accused, fairly or not, of being a soft touch. We are about to find out.

When he summons Robbie Fowler to his office this morning, to discuss the incident that led to his dismissal on Saturday at the Reebok Stadium, he must tell him that, if he behaves once more in such a reckless way, he will never again wear a Liverpool shirt. To do otherwise is to abdicate his responsibility.

There can be no pussyfooting. Fowler, sent off for brawling against Everton last season, has clearly not mended his ways. He seems unaware of the fact that he plays for one of the world's great clubs and Evans must remind him in language that burns his ears. Both men have a case to answer here and their answers must be clear and unequivocal.

Liverpool were a goal up and good for one more when Fowler was sent off in the 76th minute for battering Per Frandsen's cheekbone with his elbow. To compound matters, he wandered over to where the Dane was lying, pointed an accusing finger and bellowed at him before he was escorted to the touchline.

It was unpardonable behaviour and as Dermot Gallagher, the referee, was within spitting distance of the players, it made Fowler look not just ill-mannered but also formidably stupid. He does not cut an impressive figure at the best of times, except when he is scoring goals, and this latest incident was an absolute disgrace.

Anfield has never been the natural home of the goody-goody, but Liverpool have always maintained standards of behaviour in keeping with the club's tradition and sense of self-worth. Their players have never resorted to kicking, punching and cheating, but such is the rank ill-discipline of the current bunch that it is not hard to see why the supporters are concerned.

Evans said, feebly, that raising an arm was wrong and muttered that Pollock, the Bolton midfielder player, had spent the afternoon booing people. Deary me. "Raising an arm!" Mayfair ladies do that



Fowler waits for the red-card verdict from Gallagher, the referee, while Bolton players cluster around the stricken Frandsen

every time they dance the gavotte. What Fowler did, with clear intent, was smash another player in the face. As for Pollock, who did indeed have a boisterous game, nobody greeted him more warmly afterwards, to the point of embracing, than McManaman, who had traded kick for kick. So there were no hard feelings there.

Having dug his own ditch, Evans promptly jumped into it. The match would have benefited, he said, from the referee getting a grip of it in the first 20 minutes. The facts give the lie to that glib assumption. Gallagher had booked Phillips and Bjornebye by then and generally had a decent game. In any case, as Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said later, it is unfair to criticise referees.

It doesn't stop players and managers imagining that they could do better, though. Frank Leboeuf is the latest to stick his oar in, with his opinion on Saturday that there should be professional referees. All right, let's take him precisely at his word. When he retires, will he run the line until he has sufficient experience to take the whistle and will he do it for petrol money and half a shandy?

Cricketers and rugby players willingly perform the job, as a way of putting something back into the game. Come on, you pampered footballers. You know so much more about the laws than referees and never make any mistakes of your own, of course. Supervising a game involving others should be a doddle.

Fowler's folly cost Liverpool dear. Instead of winning the game comfortably, they ended up hanging on for a point after Blake headed an emphatic equaliser five minutes from time. Bolton can thank Branagan, their goalkeeper, for keeping the score down to one goal. His save from Fowler early in the second half, as the striker tried to walk the ball in, was a little masterpiece.

For all their talent and good intentions, Liverpool seem unable to mesh properly and for that Evans, however nice a chap he is, must be culpable. What they need is an architect. What they have got is a stonemason and, right now, his chisel is blunt. They played some good football here and Fowler's goal in the first

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

VISIT an ailing football club and you will invariably discover a hotbed of political intrigue. A place such as Villa Park, where rumours and gossip sweep through the corridors and conspiracy theories abound.

Take the case of Paul Gascoigne. A few weeks ago, his possible arrival from Rangers was being heralded as a coup for Brian Little. Now the rumour-mongers peddle the theory that the club's high-profile wooing of the England international was little more than a publicity ruse to try to pacify a disgruntled squad.

If that was the aim, it has most definitely not worked. That there is a growing contingent of malcontents in the Aston Villa dressing-room is not in doubt. It is only the extent of the grumblings that is a surprise.

Outbursts from the likes of Sasa Curcic and Savo Milosevic have become as overplayed as a Spice Girls single. To hear Gareth Southgate, the club captain, air his misgivings is an entirely different matter, more akin to hearing the Queen Mother burp in public, but there is no mistaking the depth of his reservations in an interview even before the defeat on Saturday. Villa's seventh of a troubled Premiership season and their third in front of their own, jeering fans.

Unless the club shows the ambition to match the ability of the top players, you'll end up with a scenario when you lose your best players and the whole thing falls apart," the England defender stated. "There will be a few players, if the club is in this situation at the end of the season, who will have to think long and hard about what they were doing." In short, buy some decent internationals or I'm off and I will not be the only one.

It is an infusion of confidence rather than new signings that Villa need in the short term, though, if they are to end their miserable slide towards the wrong end of the table. Little believes that his players have yet to rid themselves of the mental residue from the four consecutive defeats that provided such a dismal start to the Premiership season and, despite a lively opening on Saturday, it is difficult to see where this sorry run will end.

No one appears to be suffering more than Dwight Yorke, another player with an uncertain future, who could miss the Uefa Cup second round, second leg against



**ASTON VILLA 0
CHELSEA 2**
By Matt Dickinson

Athletic Bilbao tomorrow with a gashed thigh. Yorke had the chance to soothe the Villa Park nerves when Andy Myers tripped him inside the penalty area after 23 minutes. The striker's penalty kick, however, sliced wide of goal like a shanked golf shot and any hope that Villa had of winning this game went with it.

"We are doing all the damage to ourselves," Little moaned. "I actually thought we played quite well in the opening period, but there is a lot of frustration there and we are giving away silly goals. The volume of criticism from the terraces was more than we have had, but it is going to keep on increasing if we keep losing games."

For Chelsea, Yorke's penalty miss was the spur they needed after an unsteady start. They were rarely better than average, but they did not need to be against such frail opponents and the sight of Graham Rix puffing a cigar in the dugout before the final whistle summed up the ease with which they dismissed Villa's futile challenge.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, took most delight in emphasising that his side had now kept clean sheets in half their Premiership matches and, with Frank Leboeuf commanding in defence, they looked a solid outfit, even with half a dozen absentees.

Hughes led the line resolutely on his 34th birthday, opening the scoring after 37 minutes when his header from a Petrescu cross wriggled through Oakes's grasp and Flo sparked a mass exodus from Villa Park eight minutes from the end when he crept through on Ehiogu's blind side to finish Clarke's perfectly-measured cross.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes - U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Sanchez - G Christie, M Draper, S Grayson, F Nelson (sub: I Taylor, 60min), A Wright, J Joseph (sub: S Milosevic, 60), D Torres. CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Guza - D Sander, F Leboeuf, A Myers, C Ekezie - D Petrescu (sub: S Clarke, 60), E Newton, J Monte (sub: R Di Matteo, 60), M Nicholls - M Hughes, G Zola (sub: T A Ro, 60). Referee: S Dunn.

Strachan bravehearts pass test of strength to end away hoodoo

IT WAS a throwaway line, no more than a parting gesture, and one that almost got lost as Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, concluded his post-match observations at Selhurst Park on Saturday. As he edged towards the press-room door, he said: "They're not the best footballers in the world, but at least they went at it hammer and tongs and showed respect for each other."

There, in a nutshell, was his summary of the Coventry team over which he presides. A team that will never win the FA Cup Premiership, that has many limitations and that will lose more often than it wins. Yet a team that will scrap for its existence, rarely betray the paying punter and probably continue to survive in the Premiership's promised land.

A team to which Strachan will pledge his long-term future - "I'll sign the contract when it's in front of me, when I've got time," he said - and a team that, providing he keeps the players competitive and free of contempt from their peers, could steer him towards a greater prize. Though still in the initial throes of his managerial apprenticeship, Strachan has already attracted the attention, Benfica included, of notable suitors.

"When you play Wimbledon, you have to stand up and be counted," he said. "You have to be brave." Coventry were brave. Having darted into an early 2-0 lead and then conceded a goal, they resisted wave



**WIMBLEDON 1
COVENTRY CITY 2**
By Russell Kempson

after wave of second-half attacks. Many a defence might have succumbed in the face of Wimbledon's constant, if increasingly desperate, onslaught.

In the fifteenth minute, Huckerby twisted cleverly to volley in Dublin's nod-down. It was Coventry's first away goal in more than ten hours of trying. Seven minutes later, Dublin guided in Sullivan's poor clearance from 25 yards; after another four minutes, Cort nodded in Jones's cross. There ended the scoring, but not the entertainment.

Had Wimbledon capitalised on the endeavours of the Hughes boys, Cort and Michael, they could have continued their steady progress up the Premiership table. Had Sullivan not atoned for his error with several athletic saves, Coventry could have doubled or trebled their

winning margin. It was a shame, then, that Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, could not accept defeat gracefully. While conceding that individual errors proved costly, he pinned a share of the blame on Uriah Rennie, the referee. "He robbed us when we played at Derby and, quite frankly, I'll be glad to see the back of him," he said.

The Derby incident surrounded the non-award of a penalty and here Kinnear's dismay centred mainly on Earle's surging run, with the score at 2-1, that ended with a tumble in the Coventry area. The penalty, which would have been charitable in the extreme, was not given.

Conveniently, Kinnear forgot about Rennie's sympathetic handling of Thatcher's push-and-shove on Williams shortly before half-time. Jones's animated outburst as the players left the pitch soon after and Perry's two ill-timed tackles. A large proportion of officials would have taken more drastic action.

Strachan kept his cool. He knows how far Coventry can go, he knows how far he is willing to go with them and he knows a first away victory of the season is nothing to get too excited about.

WIMBLEDON (3-4-3): N Sutton - C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher - S Cunningham (sub: M Ardley, 60min), V Jones, C Hughes (sub: A Clarke, 70), M Hughes - R Earle - C Cort, E Brown (sub: M Gayle, 70). COVENTRY CITY (2-1-3-2): S Okechukwu - P Toller, R Shaw, G Brown, D Burrows - P Williams - T E Sobohed, G McMeekin, M Hall - D Huckerby, D Dublin. Referee: U Rennie.

Bosancic inspires Barnsley to psychological turning point

BETWEEN the back of the main stand and the walls of the Oakwell ground, two boys sporting Barnsley shirts were preparing to reprise the afternoon's match with a tennis ball and a little juvenile imagination. The first lad said that he wanted to be Alan Shearer, the second Jovo Bosancic.

Thirty minutes later, their game was well under way and the real Jovo Bosancic was talking to reporters the other side of the imaginary touchline. He spoke about his original passage to England, life in Portugal, civil war in the former Yugoslavia and ambitions for the remainder of the season. He went unrecognised by Boy Two, but then fame can be fleeting indeed.

The significance of his goal here on Saturday, driven in from 25 yards with ten minutes remaining, may be more lasting. Behind at half-time to Tim Sherwood's 32nd-minute effort and playing as poorly as at any period in this difficult season, Barnsley fought back when all around expected them to curl up their toes. They competed as equals with passion and power and to have left unrewarded would have shattered morale after their hiding at Old Trafford.

How much of this transformation was due to a trade by Danny Wilson, the manager, during the interval is impossible to gauge. How a reporter seeking background information asked, did he get



**BARNSELY 1
BLACKBURN ROVERS 1**
By Richard Hobson

hold of Bosancic? "By the throat, at half-time," came the immediate reply.

Bosancic, in fact, became the hub of proceedings. He wrestled control of the midfield from Sherwood and McKinlay and his colleagues drew belief from his strength. Twice, Redfern shot wide before Flowers acrobatically turned away an effort by Hendrie. How Blackburn were made to regret earlier missed opportunities by Duff and Sherwood.

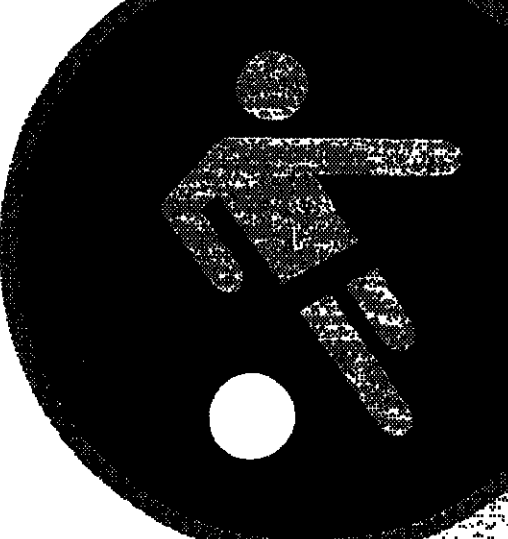
"It is a psychological turning point for us," Wilson said. "Apart from Coventry, we had only taken points against sides we had been promoted with last season. It looked at the start as if we were afraid of the reputations of their players, but in the second half we treated them like human beings and got among them. We have to take confidence from that."

Confidence is not a characteristic Bosancic lacks. "Playing in the Premiership is super easy for me," he said, comparing the top flight with the frantic scrapping of the Nationwide League.

Life is decidedly less dandy for Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager. His side failed to climb above Arsenal into second place and the fact that the only unbeaten away record in the Premiership was preserved offered scant consolation. "It is not being positive to think about that when in my view we have lost two points," Hodgson, candid and critical, said. "Barnsley hit a lot of long balls towards us, but the quality of our game should have been enough."

A bigger worry may be the injury sustained by Colin Hendry, his tallish defender, who went off in the 29th minute with suspected knee ligament damage. Hendry was due to see a specialist last night. Hodgson is unhappy at the lack of money available for signings, but the loss of Hendry cannot be absorbed from within his squad. This may not prove the defining game of the season for Barnsley alone.

BARNSELY (4-4-2): D Watson - A Moore, A de Zeeuw, P Sharif, A Khan - D Sheridan (sub: N Eades, 60min), N Redfern, J Bosancic, M Doherty - G Hirstov (sub: A Liddell, 60), A Kizman (sub: D Barnard, 70). BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers - J Kenna, S Hendry, C Hendry (sub: T Pedersen, 28), G Croft - S Priday, T Sherwood, M McKinlay, D Duff (sub: J Wilson, 65) - C Sutton, K Gelsbacher. Referee: G Poul.




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Champions enjoy another romp in the Premiership as their nearest rivals falter at Pride Park

Magnificent United give Pleat plenty to ponder

THERE was widespread sympathy for David Pleat on Saturday. One of football's great thinkers, a "tactical genius", according to Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, he sat and fended off veiled questions about his future.

"Does it get any easier David?" "No, it doesn't." "How are you coping?" "I love the game too much not to be all right, you have to be positive." "Do you ever feel like walking away?" "I am not going to walk away, it's not in my nature." And so it went on, Pleat picking over the pieces of his Sheffield Wednesday team after it had been mauled by Manchester United.

He may face some interesting questions from Wednesday's directors this week, aware, as he is, of the storm clouds gathering around him. His team lies at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and the gulf between it and the top looks ridiculously huge. He must be thinking: "It is not fair."

Yet that is rather the point. It is not fair to judge Pleat or Wednesday on events at Old Trafford, because he and they had been brushed aside by a team on the threshold of greatness. This wasn't a match in anything other than name — it was an exhibition, a training-ground runabout. United have scored 13 goals in two successive home games and, in this instance at least, they did so at a canter, flicking through the gears at will, content, most of the time, to idle along in second.

Awesomeness is a horrible word, but this performance was truly, jaw-droppingly awesome. They scored six, but as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who bagged a brace, said later, they could have had ten, or 15.

And all this without the rested Giggs and Irwin, without the injured Keane and with the talismanic Cantona but a memory. "Any squad where you can interchange players at will and still be no less effective is a manager's dream," Pleat said later. "There is fear in their team, too, fear of somebody being after your place, of not getting a game." Although to be fair, nobody looked afraid on Saturday.

There is no question that this United is better than the model that



MANCHESTER UNITED 6
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1

By Peter Robinson

dominated English football last season, and seasons before that. It is still precociously young, but as it gets older, it gets stronger. The European Cup was beyond its reach last season, but that, it turns out, was probably just a learning experience. This season, you sense that United's challenge is far more serious, far more mature and far more formidable. With Arsenal's undisciplined challenge faltering and Chelsea still to convince, the Premiership seems, for now at least, to be theirs for the taking, even if it does seem premature to say so.

Wednesday must wonder whether they are really playing in the same competition, or even the same game. There was a feeling last week that they were about to be thrown to the lions, which was hardly assuaged by the Roman fanfare that heralded the arrival of the players on to the pitch. For a moment, the Theatre of Dreams became the Colosseum, with a roar reminiscent of a Hollywood crowd scene.

For ten minutes or so, Wednesday refused to accept their fate, but it was futile. United, goaded, bit their heads off. Solskjaer to Sheringham, a slide-rule shot from 20 yards that caught Pressman unawares and it was 1-0. United had scored with their first serious attack.

They scored with their second, too. Cole tried a one-two with Sheringham inside the Wednesday penalty area. Walker intercepted the return, the ball hit Pemberton, then Cole and then Newsome before rolling disdainfully past a wrong-footed Pressman.

And before the half-hour was up,



Sheringham salutes the home faithful after scoring his second goal at Old Trafford on Saturday

the match was all but over. Pemberton escaped down United's right, crossed, Di Canio produced a perfect header and Schmeichel, almost impossibly, stretched out a hand, saved and then collected the loose ball as it crawled towards the goal. "What's the point?" you could almost see the Wednesday players mumble. "We go forward and he goes and does something like that."

By the break, it was four, Cole heading home Beckham's deflected cross, Solskjaer volleying in Gary Neville's high, hanging pass, but it could and should have been more.

Pleat knew it and he tried to ring the changes, replacing Carbone and Di Canio with the more prosaic Nicol — providing added defensive cover — and Humphreys, a move that was hardly designed to curry favour with the two Italians. But it was irrelevant. United resumed where they had left off, Sheringham claimed their fifth with a flying header and Solskjaer their sixth with a sweet curler. Between the two, Whittingham won a challenge with Schmeichel to score, but it was scant consolation. Sheringham and Cole should all have ended the day with hat-tricks.

according to Alex Ferguson, the United manager, while Beckham and Butt, too, could have scored. "You have found yourself with a selection problem for Wednesday," somebody suggested to Ferguson afterwards. "Oh, it's agony," he replied, his head in his hands. Pleat dreams about agonies like that.

Reference: A. Smith.

Derby use their legs to expose ageing Arsenal

LIFE without Bergkamp could scarcely have begun more badly for Arsenal. Arsène Wenger, their manager, dismissed the idea that the absence of the suspended Dutchman was the cause of their defeat by Derby County, their first FA Carling Premiership loss of the season. It was, he said, more of a "collective" matter.

Asked his opinion of Paulo Wanchope, scorer of two of Derby's goals, he damned him with faint praise. "Wanchope? He has the potential to be a player." Would that Arsenal had a few more players of such potential. For all their wealth and Derby's relative lack of it, Derby have built up a far stronger squad.

They were without the injured Assanovic and Stinac, the Croatia internationals, and Erancio, the Italian, Ciccio Baiano and Wanchope, from Italy and Costa Rica respectively, completely overshadowed Ian Wright and the 18-year-old Frenchman, Nicolas Anelka, whose first "start" in the Premiership was an anticlimax.

Loose-limbed, long-legged, unorthodox and unpredictable, Wanchope, the man who might one day become a player, gave Arsenal's defence a torrid time in the second half. As Jim Smith, his manager, said: "You look at the senior players in Arsenal's side and you could see they were very nervous whenever he got the ball."

With good reason. Arsenal's heavy mob, burdened by the weight of years, tends to look good until actually put under pressure. Wanchope's first goal, after less than a minute of the second half, was a trifle lucky, his shot hitting Steve Bould's heel and seeming to deceive Seaman. But why was he allowed to run half the length of the field without being challenged?

The second goal, Wanchope's again, after 66 minutes, came after Dean Sturridge had used his dynamic pace down the left to leave two defenders floundering. Winterburn made a wretched attempt to clear with his weaker right foot. Wanchope accepted the gift.

Last season at Highbury, Sturridge tormented Arsenal's defence in a drawn game. After half-time at Pride Park on Saturday, when Smith decided to use Rowett as sweeper in a three-man defence and pushed his full backs forward, Sturridge came into his own. His was the third Derby goal after 82 minutes. Racing on to a flick by Baiano, he left Petit sprawling and went on to score.

"You talk about Wanchope," Smith said. "To be honest, Baiano



DERBY COUNTY 3
ARSENAL 0

By Brian Glanville

is instrumental in the way we play. He's bright, he's very clever. He's an excellent player and he's the one that does keep it for us. I think he gets a little bit frustrated and he doesn't always get picked out when he should be picked out. He picks them out."

Happy in Italy with Fiorentina, Baiano, a Neapolitan who made his name with Foggia, was reluctant to come to England, but he has done wonderfully well. He set up another chance for Wanchope in the second half, capping a glorious run with a superb pass.

Had Arsenal put away their penalty, would things have been different? Possibly. They certainly had the better of the first half without, as Wenger admitted, creating the chances. But on the half-hour, a pass from the somewhat anonymous Wright sent Vieira in on goal, only for Carsey to bring him down. Wright banged the penalty against the bar.

The only difficult save that Poom, the Derby goalkeeper, had to make was from a powerful, right-footed hook shot by Platt, late in the second half. "Always I had the feeling that the first goal would be important," Wenger said. "Derby could just drop back in their half and counter. When we were the dominating team, we could not create chances, and after we were exposed to the speed of Derby on counter-attacks, we couldn't cope with that."

Bould collected a fifth booking for the season to join the ranks of suspended Arsenal players — despite being used in a reserve game last month to temporarily get him off the hook. Bould will be available for the home match against Manchester United on Sunday, but Petit — sent off against Aston Villa last week — and Bergkamp will not. Derby County (3-2-1): P. Rowett, M. Carter, J. Latham, C. Powell, D. Powell, C. Carney, M. Sals (sub: R. Cossik, 48min) — D. Sturridge, P. Wanchope (sub: D. Baiano, 88), F. Baiano (sub: P. Trovati, 88). ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, S. Bould, A. Adams, M. Waddock (sub: I. Bowen, 80), R. Parlor, D. Platt, P. Vieira, E. Petit — N. Anelka (sub: C. Wright, 68), I. Wright. Reference: P. Nock.

res Barnsley turning point



WEST HAM UNITED
CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 8.0



Brian Glanville
West Ham United must be hoping that this will not be another Black Monday. A week ago, they went down, in a welter of words, at Leicester City. John Hartson's interperate criticisms of the referee there will certainly bring him a suspension, but at least he and his formidable head will be around to rest Palace's defence at Upton Park tonight.

Palace will field Attilio Lombardo, wanted last week by Italy for a top-quality goalkeeper behind a superbly marshalled defence and an industrious midfield serving a pair of quick and dangerous strikers.

Neither, it must be said, was there any dependence on the offside trap or the long-ball game that characterised his much-maligned Arsenal side. Yet, for all their technical and tactical superiority over a Tottenham team that did well to make a game of it after a first-half mauling, it was the desire in Leeds' performance that had Graham drooling. The big-name players may have been eased out of Elland Road — Yeboah, Palmer,

Hartson and his fellow striker, Iain Dowie, will find themselves opposed by the powerful Icelandic centre back, Herman Hreidarsson, who gives little away in the air and is a threat in his own right. Palace are so much more formidable away from home, when they can concentrate on the counter-attack, and West Ham would do well to bear this in mind.

WEST HAM UNITED (possible): 3-5-2: L. Makosko — S. Ross, R. Ferdinand, D. Urzua — A. Ince, F. Lampard, S. Lomas, J. Morrison, E. Berikovic — I. Dowie, J. Hartson.
CRYSTAL PALACE (possible): 3-5-2: K. Miller — M. Haddock, A. Lingham, A. Roberts — J. Smith, M. Ekeberry, S. Rodgers, A. Lombardo, D. Gordon — N. Shipperley, S. Dyer.

TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.
PREDICTION: A draw.

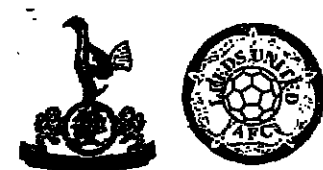
Pride and passion in class of '97 has Graham drooling

THE one was enough to warrant a smile of satisfaction, but it was the rill that really brought a twinkle to his eye and together they confirmed what the rest of the FA Carling Premiership will be afraid to hear — that George Graham is very much back in business.

Not that the man who twice led Arsenal to the title was making wild predictions, despite this comfortable and impressive victory on Saturday — "I'll settle for a place in the top six," he said — but after five years in the championship wilderness, Leeds United, under Graham, must again be considered a genuine force.

Of course, there was a hint of the Highbury monster in the scoreline and there are obvious similarities between the team he now manages and the one with which he won silverware and scorn in equal measure. But as Graham might have pointed out, where is the crime in having a top-quality goalkeeper behind a superbly marshalled defence and an industrious midfield serving a pair of quick and dangerous strikers?

Neither, it must be said, was there any dependence on the offside trap or the long-ball game that characterised his much-maligned Arsenal side. Yet, for all their technical and tactical superiority over a Tottenham team that did well to make a game of it after a first-half mauling, it was the desire in Leeds' performance that had Graham drooling. The big-name players may have been eased out of Elland Road — Yeboah, Palmer,



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
LEEDS UNITED 1

By Keith Pike

Rush, Brolin et al — but what remains has a look of much more substance.

"The manner in which we won was very encouraging," Graham said. "There is a wonderful team spirit — on the pitch, in the dressing room, on the training ground — and a great honesty about the players. All successful teams have got to have that." What Liverpool once achieved and Manchester United are now enjoying was, he stressed, "no accident". It is down to "hunger, passion, and we have got to keep that in the game".

On succeeding Howard Wilkinson just over 12 months ago, Graham said, "a lot of major surgery had to be done and a lot of difficult decisions made". Last season, he admitted, Leeds "weren't very pretty to watch, but results were the priority. Today we showed that we have built on that." And, paying tribute to Wilkinson, he acknowledged that he had inherited a youth set-up that is now

beginning to bear fruit. There are, he said, a lot more "real quality kids a year or so away from playing in the first team".

It was a goal by one of the old brigade, though, that moved Leeds on to the heads of the leading pack. Wallace doing the easy bit after Robertson had threatened an exquisite pass between Scales and Mabbitt midway through a first half that the visitors utterly dominated. Tottenham switched from 3-5-2 through 4-4-2 to 4-2-4, but for all their perseverance, the damage was irreparable. Martyn had just one save of note to make, an acrobatic leap to reach a header from Campbell.

Little wonder that Gerry Francis's mood was in complete contrast to Graham's. He refused to discuss "hypothetical situations" about leaving White Hart Lane, voluntarily or otherwise, and said that all he could do was "keep working" to turn around Tottenham's season. But he wore the resigned look of one who knows that time is against him.

"A couple of weeks ago, Leeds were below us, so it just goes to show what can happen if you put a good run together," he said, but he did not sound convinced. Neither was the Spurs fan who had infiltrated the press room. "The players here are not good enough for Tottenham Hotspur and 35,000 people are saying the same every week," he told Francis with ill-disguised contempt.

That was hardly fair on the likes of Walker, whose agility prevented a much heavier defeat, but Disgrunted of N17 had a point. For how much longer is Francis prepared to let Fox under-achieve, for example, or Ginola to continue with his self-indulgent dribbles and free kicks — those when he is not hurling himself to the ground at the merest hint of a challenge, legitimate or otherwise.

What Tottenham need now is for their players to stand up and be counted, not fall over. They could do worse than look to Saturday's opponents for their example.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): I. Walker — J. Scales, G. Mabbitt (sub: E. Carr, 48min), S. Campbell — R. Fox, D. Ginola, D. Howells (sub: D. Anderson, 68), A. Senter, J. Edinborough — C. Armstrong, J. Darnley (sub: S. Bennett, 48). LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Merryn — A. Maybury, I. Radebe, D. Whitwell, D. Robertson — G. Kelly, D. Waddock, A. Haxland, S. Ribeiro — H. Korrell, R. Wallace. Reference: K. Dargie.

Newcastle begin to take on the dourness of Dalglish

THE family life of Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, is, by all accounts, happy and stable. Clearly, his behaviour around the house is different than it is at after-match press conferences. If it was not, Relane would offer him a season ticket.

Imagine the scene at breakfast time. "Do you want cornflakes this morning, Kenny?" "Why?" "I thought you might be hungry." "What makes you think that?" "Well, you've not eaten since last night." "Who says so?" This goes on for two long minutes, during which time he glares randomly, fidgets and, finally, cracks a bitter-sweet joke that no one hears and flounders into the living room.

Football teams are shaped in the image of their manager and there is a lot of Kenny Dalglish in Newcastle United; too much, perhaps, for their own good. They have lost form and, in the midst of this sub-standard version of something once handsome, we find a certain dourness, a restlessness, a querulous spirit.

There was an incident in the first half that distilled Newcastle's agitation. Albert was annoyed to find Izzet placed between himself and the ball. On other days, he might have merely tracked him, since he was heading nowhere in particular, but instead, he kicked through him, his instep rammed recklessly into Izzet's back.

An encounter with the non-stop, hurly-burly journeyman of Leicester is invariably an unsettling experience, but Newcastle were



NEWCASTLE UNITED 3
LEICESTER CITY 3

By Mark Hodgkinson

unable to circumvent the blue shirts. Batty and Barnes were again played deep, content to tap the ball six yards sideways or back to their defenders, while their rare attacking tendencies suffered from a dearth of wing play.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, was happy once more to exalt his charges. "They did fantastically," he said. Newcastle were awarded a penalty on their first real attack when Marshall fouled Keshia. Barnes converted, but Leicester equalised within minutes when Marshall headed home a Guppy free kick. Marshall scored again with a header, this time from an Izzet cross.

Seconds before half-time, Newcastle equalised again. Hamilton appeared to score, but it was announced later that Tomasson had deflected it across the line. This might have been a magnanimous gesture by Hamilton, since Tomasson's lack of a goal for Newcastle has, he admitted recent-

ly, been causing him a great deal of stress.

Newcastle tried to press but were often thwarted by their own lack of invention and the exuberance of their visitors. Leicester play a modern game to perfection: their movement is fluid and fast, every player is comfortable on the ball, few passes are sent long or hopeful and, most notably, there is a palpable joy in their approach to the game.

Leicester justly re-established the lead when Elliott scored another headed goal by simply putting his forehead to a corner by Guppy. Newcastle had every player in their penalty area, but still allowed Elliott, all 6ft 3in and 15st of him, to slip through unnoticed.

John Beresford had, before this season, not scored in the previous four campaigns. As Leicester tired, he moved forward unmarked and met a Keshia cross and headed it adroitly past Arphexed to record his sixth goal in the past 14 matches. The roar of relief from the impatient St James' crowd would have been heard as far away as Gateshead.

The game's final submission was a marvellous piece of theatre. Heskey, who had played magnificently throughout, finally responded to the constant digs and jabs that had come his way from Peacock and Albert. He sent the Belgian to the ground with one of those infamous footballers' punches-cum-pushes and was sent off. As the crowd hissed and booed, slaver at the perimeter fence, he slowly and defiantly ambled from the pitch.

Between the grunts, glares and asides, Dalglish appeared pleased with the outcome afterwards. "Some of our play was tremendous in the first half," he said. "I think justice was done when we equalised at the end. Some of our outplay was very impressive." There were few nods of agreement in the press room, though nobody dared speak up; Dalglish has that effect on people — and on teams, too, it would seem.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): S. Owen — D. Peacock, S. Howson (sub: D. Hamilton, 80), P. Albert — S. Watson, R. Lee, D. Batty, J. Barnes, J. Beresford — J. D. Tomasson (sub: I. Ruest, 77), T. Knowles. LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): P. Arphexed — S. Peter, M. Elliott, Marshall — P. Keenan, G. Parlor (sub: R. Savage, 87), M. Lanner, M. Izzet, S. Guppy — S. Curridge (sub: G. Porter, 87), E. Heskey. Reference: G. Wilford.



Ginola, of Tottenham, struggles to overcome the close attention of Haaland, the Norwegian midfielder, during his team's defeat



Peacock, of Newcastle, challenges Heskey, who played well but was sent off in a final piece of theatre for lashing out at Albert

Negri content to let goals do all the talking

Marco Negri talks with the hush of a man tending his hangover. It is, though, his consumption of goals, rather than drink, that is excessive. After his hat-trick in a 4-1 victory over Kilmarnock on Saturday, he has now scored 26 times for Rangers this season.

Of that total, 23 have been deposited in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, where he has found the net in each of the club's ten fixtures. Mental arithmetic is an uncommon pastime in the stands at Ibrox, but it is enticing for a supporter to estimate Negri's likely tally for this season. There are spectators who claim whimsically that they will denounce his lapse in form if he does

not contribute 80 goals to the winning of the championship. In view of the intimidating standards that he has set himself, it seems understandable that the Italian should be prone to bouts of silence.

However, he is not really dumb-struck. The player, whom Rangers signed from Perugia for £3.5 million in the summer, simply has a retiring disposition. He is not the sort of scorer who, after a goal, vaults hoardings and hangs from the perimeter fencing to commune with the crowd. In his first weeks with the club, his reluctance to celebrate was conspicuous.

Some took the emotional reticence as a sign that Negri was unhappy in Glasgow. It may be a desire to dispel the rumour that

has since seen him respond a little more strenuously to his audience, but he can still look like a man fulfilling an obligation rather than indulging an instinct.

Although he refused requests for an interview on Saturday, Negri had been willing to talk to journalists in August, after he had scored all of Rangers' goals in a 5-1 win over Dundee United. The forward was asked which of the quintet had pleased him most. "Every goal is beautiful to me," he replied softly.

There might have been almost 50,000 people inside Ibrox and his contribution may have broken a deadlock, as it did on Saturday when the score stood at 1-1 with five minutes remaining, but Negri's satisfaction is private. Prolific

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

scorers all have a deep desire for goals that cannot be explained purely by reference to the circumstances of a match or the ambitions of their club. Negri is particularly intro-

spective and Giovanni Galeazzi, his manager at Perugia, recalls how stultic the forward used to be as he attended to the chores of training. Perhaps, Negri, 27, has reason to be pensive, for he has encountered the frustrations that football can impose. The goals may now be abundant, but they did not come naturally to him.

The early Nineties were spent with Cosenza, in Serie B, and he also had loan spells with sides in Serie C, where he made little impact. Negri, however, eventually began to develop and earned a move to Perugia, whom he helped achieve promotion to Serie A by scoring 18 goals in 33 games during season 1995-96. The small club found it impos-

ible to hold on to a place among Italy's elite, but by the time of its relegation in May, Negri had amassed 15 goals in the top flight. Such a tally is impressive in a division where strikers are stifled and although Perugia were relegated, Negri's reputation was on the rise.

The leading clubs in Serie A had reservations about a man who, when not taking chances, scarcely participates in a match at all. They might also have worried about his pace, failing to appreciate how swift he is to step in front of a marker in the goalmouth. It seems that Negri is no nearer a place with his national team, but in Scotland his worth is beyond question. Against Kilmarnock, Negri gave

Rangers the lead and restored it, five minutes from the end, after an equaliser had been conceded. The forward's prolific ways have concealed many poor performances by Rangers in the past few months.

Although he faces inadequate opponents and does receive sumptuous service from Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne, a forward with such a quantity of goals cannot be belittled. Maurice Malpas has forecast that defender's scoring rate down to manageable size and the Dundee United veteran could be right. At the moment, though, he sounds rather like Michael Fish, in 1987, scoffing at predictions of a hurricane.



Walker, the Swansea captain, left, scores only his eighth goal in nine seasons, but it was enough to settle the South Wales derby with Cardiff yesterday. Photograph: Huw Evans

Cardiff City 0
Swansea City 1

By PAT GIBSON

IT MAY not mean much to the rest of the Nationwide League but to Swansea City, this victory meant everything. They may still be below Cardiff City in the lower half of the third division, but their supporters will rule the roost in South Wales until the return at the Vetch Field in March. The clubs of John Charles and Ivor Allchurch may have fallen a long way since the days when crowds of more than 50,000 would pack into Ninian Park for this fixture, but its importance to those who care about them was only too evident in the hours before the Sunday lunchtime kick-off.

Hotshot Walker settles the score for Swansea

Away supporters had been banned from these impassioned Welsh assemblies since a rainy night in December 1993, when saturated Swansea fans were afforded shelter in the main stand and so incensed the locals by their presence that a riot ensued.

Now they were back, some 500 of them being allowed to travel from Swansea with a police escort and to congregate on the Grange End terracing before being escorted back again. For a few awful mo-

ments yesterday, it looked as though this might have been a mistake.

The match had got off to a frenzied start with Scott Young, the Cardiff defender, booked in the seventh minute for clattering into two Swansea players and Swansea taking the lead four minutes later through a stunning goal from their captain, Keith Walker.

It was created by a devilish inswinging corner from the right by Coates, which Hallworth, hemmed in by

bodies, could only punch to the edge of the penalty area. The ball landed invitingly for Walker, who met it perfectly to send a volley screaming into the net for only his eighth goal in nine seasons with Swansea.

The effect was almost terrifying. Suddenly, the Cardiff supporters, who had been content to hurl verbal abuse at their rivals, broke out of their enclave to run along the front of the Bob Bank Stand in an effort to engage in close combat. Several steel barriers and

a phalanx of policemen held them back.

Only another four minutes had elapsed when Young crunched into Bird, a former Cardiff player, in an innocuous position out on the touchline and was sent off for a second bookable offence. It might have been the cue for more trouble, but instead the supporters of both sides became absorbed in the struggle.

Cardiff opted to play with only three men at the back in an attempt to regain the

initiative, while Swansea strove to make their advantage pay.

Not surprisingly, Swansea had the better of it for a while and almost went further ahead when Cusack headed against the bar. But Cardiff, in their credit, rallied magnificently. A volley from O'Sullivan squirmed from Freestone's grasp and rolled against a post and Crowe, a teenage striker on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers, was denied by an instinctive save by Freestone and then blasted a shot against the underside of the bar.

CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): J. Hallworth — C. Mickelson (sub: G. Stokes, 71 min), S. Young, M. Viers, C. Beech — W. O'Sullivan, J. Fowler (sub: S. White, 84), D. Penney, A. Carr (sub: S. Partridge, 65) — G. Crowe, A. Samuels. SWANSEA CITY (5-3-2): R. Freestone — J. Price, K. O'Leary, K. Walker, K. Edwards, M. Coates — R. Appleby, M. Cusack, J. Charles — S. White (sub: A. Nicholson, 55), T. Bert. Referee: R. Harris.

Clark confirms credentials in captaincy stakes

Stockport County 1
Sunderland 1

By IVO TENNANT

NOBODY, least of all Peter Reid, could ever have doubted that Lee Clark would captain Sunderland one day. This was not merely because he was their record signing, but on account of having led representative England teams in his not-so-distant youth. If he had not looked the part already, there was no doubting that he did in the very last minute on Saturday.

Sunderland were a goal down, and deservedly so, when Clark, leading them for the first time in the absence of the injured Kevin Ball, collected a deflected pass on the right hand side of Stockport County's penalty area and drove the equaliser into the far corner. "If there was one player who I wanted the ball to break to, it was Lee," Reid, his manager, said.

This was Clark's sixth goal of the season. The last time that he played in the Nationwide League first division, he scored ten times, which bodes well for Sunderland. He made all the right noises about having been honoured by his manager, did not harp back to missing Newcastle United and modestly disclaimed having carefully picked his target in that pell-mell last minute.

Clark had been charged with inspiring a young team, who, Reid felt, would have learned a lot from giving the ball away too often in the first half. Where they did excel was in defence. Perez brought off a wonderful save, diving low to his left to palm away a header

by McIntosh, and Sunderland generally restricted Stockport to shooting from distance, usually with no great accuracy.

As a consequence, Stockport's goal was a messy affair, Gannon forcing the ball home from Cook's corner 12 minutes from time. Of their chances up to then, Armstrong had hit a post with a glancing header and had a side-footed volley saved. There was also a fierce left-footed drive by Wood that Perez averted at the base of his right-hand post. Reid will be less concerned now that his attempts to sign Andy Gorman, the Rangers goalkeeper, have not succeeded.

Stockport should not repine. In two consecutive home matches, they have taken four points off Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sunderland and, as Gary Megson, their manager, admitted, they would have settled for that in August. Besides, in the second half he reckoned that his side played better than on any other occasion this season.

Brent Angell, Stockport's leading scorer, compares their standing in the game as comparable to that of Southend United, his former team, when they achieved promotion to the first division. "Those players had the same doubts, but you soon realise the only difference is that the technical ability is a little better higher up. Southend stayed up for six years and were often at the top end," he said.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): E. Nelson — S. Cornely, M. McIntosh, T. Gannon, G. Woodcock — T. Bennett, J. Gannon, P. Cook, K. Cooper — B. Angell, A. Armstrong. SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L. Perez — D. Holdway, J. Craddock, D. Williams, M. Gray — A. Johnson, C. Byrne (sub: A. Rose, 60 min), C. Clark, M. Smith — M. Bridges (sub: F. Russell, 55), K. Phillips. Referee: A. Wiley.

Pair keep alive Premiership aim

Bradford City 0
West Bromwich Albion 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

MARK SCHWARZER, the former Bradford City goalkeeper, must be some player. How else can his club, Middlesbrough, afford to do without Gary Walsh and Alan Miller? The two former Middlesbrough goalkeepers were the men most responsible for the blank scoreline between two of the teams in the queue to join the big beasts of the FA Cup Premiership — or become next season's Barnsley, if you prefer.

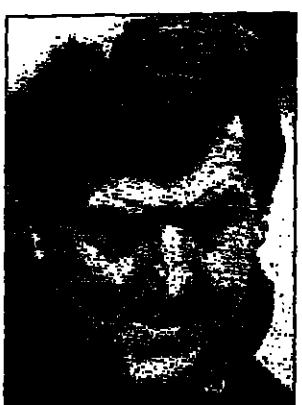
Walsh, who, unable to displace Schwarzer, joined Bradford last week for £500,000 after five matches on loan, during which he conceded only one goal, had the first and last yards, then, in the final minute, he leapt to deny David Smith, whose long shot was arrowing towards a top corner. "Unbelievable," according to Ray Harford, the West Bromwich manager, a man rarely given to hyperbole.

Not to be outdone, Miller, who signed for Albion in February, two days after Schwarzer's arrival on Teesside, flung himself to his left late in the first half to paw aside a near-post header by Edinho and deserved his luck when Youds' header grazed the crossbar from the resulting corner, just as Walsh deserved his when Sneekes's nineteenth-minute shot struck the woodwork.

There were other reasons why the game finished goalless: the visitors committed too few players; Bradford lacked a cutting edge to match the enterprise of Beagrie and, later, Lawrence on the wings. Significantly, a defender, Youds, again, came closest to capitalising on Bradford's sec-

ond-half pressure when his header was cleared off the line. "In the second half, we just bombed them without having enough to finish them off," Chris Kamara, the manager, admitted. "They're delighted, we're disappointed."

Harford delighted? That'll be the day. "We're satisfied," was as far as he would go. "Some of our play on the counterattack in the first half was electric, but the final ball wasn't good enough. They (Bradford) came out in the



Harford: satisfied

second half and put us on the back foot and we never really recovered."

Neither team, on the evidence of this Nationwide League first division match on Saturday, looks good enough to go the distance, although Bradford, said Kamara, are "a year ahead of schedule on what we planned when I took over." Harford, too, recognises the need to add to his squad. "I'm certainly going to need some more players," he said. Up front? "Everywhere."

Except, it is safe to say, in goal. BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G. Walsh — J. O'Grady, D. Moore, S. Youds, W. Joseph — S. Murray, S. O'Grady, C. Penney, P. Beagrie — E. Edinho, R. Stokes (sub: J. Lawrence, 55 min). WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-1-1): A. Miller — P. Holmes, D. Burgess, P. Weston, D. Smith — S. Pym (sub: S. Colclough, 65), P. Butler, I. Hamilton, K. Williams (sub: A. Dobson, 80) — R. Snodgrass — A. Hunt (sub: L. Hughes, 60). Referee: W. Burns.

Northampton find common ground for latest ascent

Northampton Town 1
Bristol Rovers 1

By BILL EDGAR

ANY Northampton Town supporter with a phobia for turnstiles can still find a satisfactory view of home games from the top of a nearby grassy hill. Northampton could fill in the gaps between the stands at their Sixfields Stadium, but you

imagine that they would be loath to tinker with the present structure for fear of losing the luck it has brought them over the past three years.

The hundred or so silhouettes that settled for a free view of three quarters of the pitch on Saturday saw Northampton remain in the top three of the Nationwide League second division despite being held by Bristol Rovers. Northampton have been transformed since the

summer of 1994, when, having finished bottom of the League, they would have arrived at the new Sixfields as a non-League club had Kidderminster Harriers' stadium not been deemed substandard for promotion from the Vauxhall Conference.

Their rise, under the management of Ian Atkins, has evoked memories of when they caught the mood of the Sixties by swinging from fourth division to the old first

and back again, all in nine years. A more pertinent parallel has been drawn with Bury's muscle-bound leap from third to first division during the past two seasons, in which they employed a direct style suited to their limited means.

Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, was unhappy with Northampton's approach. "There were some ugly challenges. Gary Penrice was elbowed in the nose and

Andy Tillson was elbowed in the head," he said. The measured passing movements led by Holloway and Penrice contrasted with the long punts that Northampton aimed at their own front three.

The home side was leading through John Gayle's 57th-minute header when his namesake, Brian, the Bristol defender, was sent off for oversteering his complaint to a linesman over the award of a free kick. But the ten remain-

ing Rovers players kept their style and a delightful series of short passes culminated in Jamie Cureton's equaliser.

Atkins said: "I think we dominated it throughout and they never really threatened." NORTHAMPTON TOWN (3-4-3): A. Woodman — I. Sampson, R. Warburton, D. Wright — C. Clancy, R. Harris, J. Grant, G. Potter — J. Gayle, D. Seal (sub: A. Gibb, 45 min), C. Higgs. BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A. Collett — D. Pringle — C. Clancy, R. Harris, J. Grant, G. Potter — J. Gayle, D. Seal (sub: A. Gibb, 45 min), C. Higgs. Referee: S. Matheson.

Eaton hat-trick turns the table

Cheltenham Town 4
Halifax Town 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

TWELVE minutes of second-half mayhem, which saw Jason Eaton score a hat-trick and Bob Bloomer put away a stunning left-foot volley, enabled Cheltenham Town to bring Halifax Town's proud 12-match unbeaten start to the Vauxhall Conference season shuddering to a halt at Waddon Road on Saturday.

As the dust settled on an afternoon in which Morecambe, equally surprisingly, were crushed at home by Hereford United, Hednesford Town were left on top of the table. Cheltenham, unbeaten in ten matches, moved into fourth place.

Newly promoted, Cheltenham have plans to erect covered terracing at the north end of the ground that will take the capacity past the figure of 6,000 demanded by the Football League. "We expect to hear in December what sort of grant we will get before going ahead," Steve Cotterill, the manager, said. Cautious Cotterill, though, insists that Saturday's win means nothing more than "we've only got to

get another 22 points to be safe in the Conference."

Certainly, too much can be read into the scoreline. Until Eaton's opening goal in the 62nd minute, the match was fierce, tightly contested and devoid of clear attempts at goal. Eaton broke the deadlock when Martin lamely fisted away a corner, then, within a minute, he was left clear when Kildine made an embarrassing hash of a clearance. Eaton dipped a well-judged shot over Martin. Bloomer's magnificent volley from a ball played forward by Smith was followed by Eaton swivelling to turn in his third after another corner.

"The first two goals were Kamikaze," George Mulhall, the Halifax manager, said, "but we had won nine and drawn three and now is not the time to go in and give the players a rollicking."

Cotterill had no doubts about Halifax's quality. "They're the best side we've played this season," he said. CHELTEHAM TOWN (4-4-2): S. Brock — M. Dool, M. Freeman, C. Banks, J. Victory — K. Knight, L. Howells, R. Bloomer, J. Smith (sub: S. Barton, 55 min) — J. Eaton (sub: D. Wright, 87), D. Waddock (sub: M. Crisp, 85). HALIFAX TOWN (5-3-2): I. Martin — A. Thackway, B. Kildine, K. O'Flanagan, P. Stannard, M. Gough — C. Hunt (sub: D. Lyons, 85), J. Brown, J. Patterson — G. Brock, G. Howells. Referee: G. Beale.

Real are victims of own ambition

By ROB HUGHES

TAKE Manchester United versus Liverpool as a yardstick. Double the crowd, infuse the passion with separatist political intensity and you have Real Madrid's 3-2 defeat by Barcelona in front of 106,000 fanatics on Saturday.

Real Madrid, outstanding in Europe, had not lost at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium for 27 league games. Barcelona, unbeaten in Spain but struggling in the European Cup Champions' League, had been taunted in the Madrid press as lacking the organisation and courage to withstand the white magic.

The response? A match of cruel malice and beautiful bravery. Twice Barcelona led, twice Real equalised, but they could not come back a third time. Louis van Gaal, the Dutch tactician who replaced Bobby Robson as Barcelona coach, commented: "I thought we could win because Real would attack like crazy and maybe get a bit desperate."

They did. Stung by a fifth-minute goal by Rivaldo, the quick Brazilian whom Barcelona preferred to Steve McManaman, Real poured forward, only to fall to the classic counter. Figo slipped

his marker down the right, crossed low and Rivaldo scored at the near post. Canizares, the keeper, was beaten seconds short of a record 710-minute shutout.

Rudolf Hesp, the Barcelona goalkeeper, was spared his own uncertainties until the 49th minute when Raul, the cult figure of Spanish youth, stole in to score from six yards. Back came Barcelona, regaining the lead barely a minute later through the irrepressible Luis Enrique, who drifted beyond two men before seeing his shot rise into the net.

Luis Enrique was once a Real hero; Davor Suker momentarily became that when he controlled at a touch and shot left-footed through Barcelona's defences from 17 yards. The Catalans rode their luck when Pedrag Mijatovic clipped the bar and Suker comically mislaid the rebound. They dug in and won the final bout of substitutions.

Real brought on more attackers: Van Gaal unveiled his second Brazilian, Giovanni, who, two minutes after taking the field and 12 minutes from time, outpaced Hierro to touch home Figo's inviting left-wing cross.

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15/2	2-1	WEST HAM, C. PALACE	33/1
16/1	3-0	DRAW, WEST HAM	9/2
14/1	3-1	DRAW, DRAW	4/1
25/1	3-2	DRAW, C. PALACE	7/1
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Newcomer turns into heavyweight player

Five months after it was played, Channel 5's top rating programme is still Poland v England, which managed to pull in an audience of almost four million, despite the lamentable presentation. A new head of sport later, there are growing signs that while that record may not be broken before Christmas, it could fall in the new year. Now run by Robert Charles, the former head of sport at Yorkshire Television, the channel is showing increasing signs of getting its sporting house in order.

This week is probably his most important yet. Tomorrow night, there is Aston Villa v Athletic Bilbao; on Thursday, it's Chelsea's home game against Tromsø and, in the

early hours of Sunday morning — to the surprise of everyone, except Charles — they have world championship heavyweight boxing. No subscription, no pay-per-view, just Michael Moorer against Evander Holyfield, live some time after 4.00am and then repeated at the more humane hour of 9.00am.

But for the rival attraction on Tuesday of Liverpool against Strasbourg on BBC1 (an early goal could be crucial in more ways than one), there is every chance of two and, possibly, all three of these events muscling into the new channel's all time top ten. That would mean that seven of Channel 5's top ten programmes since launch could be sports events — good news

for Charles, as he seeks to follow up his boxing coup with others — rather embarrassing for everybody else.

Slightly unexpectedly, this top ten doesn't yet include Wednesday's World Cup game between Ireland and Belgium. Overnight figures indicate an average audience of around two million, which seems poor reward for a clever bit of opportunism. Yet what the game did confirm was Charles's apparent maxim: don't be different for the sake of being different, be the same as the people who do it best.

So there was Jeremy Nicholas, in jacket, collar and tie, reading his Autocue script and discussing the game with



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

his studio guests, David O'Leary and Charlie Nicholas. It's a format we have seen a thousand times before and for one simple reason: it works. The one element of danger came with the announcement that Gary Bloom's co-commentator was the ever-idiosyncratic Jack Charlton. Dangerous it quickly proved, with Bloom and Charlton disagreeing about virtually everything, including whether

Nills's goal should have been ruled outside (Charlton yes, everybody else no) and, memorably, whether it was Rene van der Elst (Charlton) or Franky van der Elst (everybody else) who was gracing Lansdowne Road with his presence. The difference was a small matter of about 20 years.

The surprise winners of Wednesday night turned out to be Channel 4, who attracted an impressive real-time audi-

ence of 3.4 million for the snowy encounter between Russia and Italy. "A good night for slide-tackles," Don Howe predicted from the commentary position. "And an even better one for hats," Peter Brackley agreed, setting the tone for his relaxed but accurate commentary style.

If Channel 5 are sensibly opting for safety first, Channel 4 showed that it is possible to be different and successful at once. James Richardson, in Moscow, was as polished a host as you would expect of a man who has presented the channel's Football Italia for years. According to Richardson, it was "the most important live game we have ever shown you on Football Italia". According to the powers-

that-be in London, it was also the first live international game that the channel has shown "as far as we can remember".

The coverage was marred only by some splendidly eccentric camera-work from the Russian host-broadcaster, including a cut-away to an unidentified Russian VIP just as the Italian forwards slipped into the opposing penalty area. "If there had been a goal then, we wouldn't have seen it," Brackley noted accurately. Two minutes later there was — and thankfully we did.

Away from football, the biggest beneficiary of Channel 5's growing sports output is Steve Scott, who arrived from ITN to present Rugby Express, the Sunday highlights pack-

age. If its BBC predecessor, Rugby Special, is anything to go by, Rugby Express will not be setting any audience records, but the programme made a competent enough start last weekend, although the decision to take Scott out of the studio and into the grounds seems to emphasise that what we are watching is recorded.

Scott will also anchor the boxing, for which his studio guests will include John Conteh. Commentary will be provided by Reg Gutteridge and the newly-retired Steve Collins. If the fight is a decent one and Aston Villa and Chelsea both do what is expected of them, it will have been quite a week for Britain's newest terrestrial broadcaster.

A Sunday morning in Croydon may show if abuse of officials by professionals is contaminating the grass roots

Why on earth do referees do it?

An interesting turnover statistic was last week revealed by the Referees' Association. Every year 6,000 new referees are recruited — but with unfortunate symmetry, every year 6,000 also jack it in. They didn't say exactly how this jacking-in occurs, but you can easily imagine the rather touching ceremony. The retiring ref hands in his whistle, surrenders his little black book and then performs one last, defiant lap of honour with arms outstretched, as though balancing a cup and saucer on each forearm, while a group of yobs chants dutifully "The referee's a splendid bloke" (just for once).

Now, it's not a bit surprising that referees depart the game in droves. What's much more remarkable is that there are droves arriving in the opposite direction, with those nice white bands round the tops of their black socks and the rules of football memorised for instant use. What on earth is it for them, exactly, these lunatic 6,000? Don't they ever watch football on the telly and read the lips like the rest of us? A labiodental fricative (or "F") means only one thing, and is quite unmistakable. As referees, these 6,000 poor volunteers will be isolated, abused and threatened, they'll be paid very little money and they'll work stupid hours. So why not become Broadmoor psychiatric

nurses instead? Broadmoor is indoors, mostly. And you get cups of tea thrown in.

Yet still they do it — and their goodwill is simply taken for granted. Yesterday morning at Purley Way, Croydon, umpteen qualified refs turned up — fat and thin, old and young, black and white, male and female — selflessly to officiate in the cold and fog, enforce jewellery rules and report teams

who turned up without corner flags or a full contingent of players. One of them looked the spitting image of the great American playwright, Tennessee Williams, which was disconcerting to say the least — Tennessee Williams was always falling over — but his stamens belied his little white legs and, if he looked worried, it was in a good cause. These blokes lend all their expertise

just so that other people can have a good time playing football. What heroes they are, when you think about it.

When I say "football", of course, I'm being only broadly descriptive on this occasion. This Purley Way ritual was a funny old thing to miss. The Archers for, I have to say, play was all random bluff and bluff, with an enormous lot of shouted instructions to distract attention from the non-existent boot-skills. "Darren!" went up the frequent shout, as the ball zinged haphazardly and players clumsily colli-



Croydon, south London: umpteen qualified referees turned up yesterday — fat and thin, old and young, black and white, male and female — selflessly to officiate

ed. "Jason!" "Darren!" "Jason!" Luckily all the players were called Darren or Jason, which kept things simple when moving between games. If you needed to assume protective colouring at this event, in fact, all you'd need to do is shriek, "Get stuck in, Jason!" and you'd fit right in immediately.

But the point was, here in south London was an opportunity to test the fears of the Referees' Association. Is top-level discipline and respect contaminating the grass roots? Are the players on Purley Way imitating the Ian Wrights and Emmanuel Petits and John Harrison? I prepared myself for lots of swearing and showing off and constructed a not entirely original theory that nowadays nobody respects grey hairs, or selflessness, or indeed authority. Nowadays nobody respects anything except money.

However, it didn't turn out that way, perhaps because play at this level is so imprecise that players are too busy blaming each other to blame the ref. A few shouts of "Oy, ref!" and "Ten yards, ref!" were as bad as it got. I was quite relieved. In the Marcus Lipson Cup first-round game between Oakfield



Highbury, north London: Arsenal players crowd the referee after he sent off Emmanuel Petit last week

Wanderers and Barnwell, I saw a female referee award a controversial penalty and assumed for a moment that this was it. I gulped and got my notepad out. Here was a story in the making. Big blokes bullying a woman.

At which point all ill-feeling miraculously subsided and the aggrieved coach shouted: "Ricky,

don't argue about it. It's been given. Now get on with the game." Ho hum. I put the notepad away again. The penalty went high and wide and the incident was forgotten. Now why can't Arsenal Wenger take such a sensible attitude to refereeing decisions, that's what I want to know.

None of this answers the question: "Why?" Why do they want this awful, ill-rewarded job? The refs I questioned yesterday just said they loved football and wanted to be part of it — but that sounds a bit wet, quite frankly. Perhaps they get a buzz pointing at big footballers and blowing a reprimanding "cheep, cheep" on their whistles. Perhaps, when they send their

children to bed at night, they refuse to go. "Experience gives you the authority to impose yourself on the game," one ref said. "You learn how to let them know who's boss, send them off." And he smiled quite wide at the thought of it.

As confidence therapy, however, football refereeing sadly works both ways. Hence the revolving-door syndrome described by the Referees' Association. Some new recruits, fresh from their written exam, are so scared to death by the pitch experience that they simply give up at once. Half of them drop out, in shock. Imagine your first game entailed a tricky decision and you said: "Give me a minute, I haven't done this before." "There'd be no mercy for that sort of thing. You've seen those nature films of hyenas attacking a limping zebra? That's the nightmare you'd have for the rest of your life."

The swearing at refs in the big game is stupid and yobish — and there's another thing I don't like about it, which is that it's megabuck players insulting people who are paid a lot less. That's terrible bad manners. At least at the Purley Way level, the refs are the only ones paid to turn up. Which must give them rather a lift, actually.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Schumacher and fair play

From Mr & Mrs H. Reynolds
Sir, In its 200mph rush to heap praise on motor sport's new-found appeal, today's leading article (Wheel of Fortune, October 27) failed to negotiate the credibility gap that opened on lap 48 of the European Grand Prix. Far from marking a high point, the race highlighted the abandonment of the sporting notion that victories exist to be fairly won, and defeats to be honourably endured.

Formula One's great day should have seen Michael Schumacher sacked by Ferrari for besmirching a great tradition. Now lifetime enthusiasts must consider what is to be gained by continuing to support a "sport" apparently content to allow its leading role-models to display all the moral fibre of a spark plug.

Yours sadly,
HOWARD REYNOLDS,
140 Greenacres,
Wetherall, Cumbria.

European Grand Prix, one must ask why Ayrton Senna was not similarly criticised seven years ago when he deliberately took Alain Prost off the circuit in Australia to ensure his own world title.

That Schumacher failed in his attempt is no defence; yet Senna succeeded and yet was not only allowed to keep his title but has almost been canonised in recent years. He may or may not have been the greatest driver of his day, but he frequently used dishonest and bullying tactics. That he reached a world title through such tactics was an open invitation to copy him.

Schumacher may or may not be the best driver today; but the governing body must act now to ensure that he is judged — and penalised — for what he also is.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL HENDERSON,
29 Campion Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland.

From Mr Peter Williams
Sir, In attempting to duplicate his dismissal of Damon Hill from the Australian Grand Prix in 1994, Michael Schumacher's tactics at Jerez on Sunday warrant immediate and punitive disciplinary action.

When, on the grounds of safety, Villeneuve and Schumacher (at Silverstone 1994)

Standing up for rugby against Danny Baker

From Mr Richard Beecham

Sir, Danny Baker's attack on rugby (October 25) must originate with some childhood trauma or maybe from ignorance of the facts. In either case he has badly (and sadly) missed the point. Hove Rugby Football Club has one of the largest actively participating memberships of any sports club in the Borough of Brighton & Hove. In addition to four regular senior teams we have a women's team, a veterans' team and 350 youth players (boys and girls), from under 7 to under 19. Hove is just one of hundreds of clubs up and down the country with a similar story. Club rugby is booming, particularly among women and the young.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BEECHAM (Chairman, Hove RFC),
50 Beaconsfield Villas, Brighton, Sussex.

are disqualified from competing for ignoring warning flags, it remains ludicrously inconsistent to "allow", or simply brush under the carpet, deliberate acts like the one Schumacher attempted last Sunday. In the last decade "cheating" has gone unchecked in Formula One motor racing.

Rather than a shrug of the shoulders, the authorities that police Formula One should overrule the decision of the track at Jerez, and haul Schumacher in front of a full disciplinary committee. After the dark shadow cast by the Schumacher manoeuvre

From Mr Steven Page

Sir, Although I would not be described as a frothing rugby fanatic, I would say that I would never take a child to a football match. Having been to several, I could not put any impressionable youngster through 90 minutes of football with its undercurrents of violence and constant foul and abusive language. Of the international I have seen at Twickenham, and of the provincial rugby matches throughout the country, I would be proud to take a child to experience the delight of watching live sport in and among a loud, but unerringly friendly opposition.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN PAGE,
28 Sedgwick Avenue,
Hillingdon, Middlesex.

From Mr Peter Hearne

Sir, A driver who acted as Schumacher did, on a public road would be punished severely and disqualified. On a race track at racing speeds it is even more culpable.

Motor sport's governing body must recognise that no comparable sport, such as sailing, for example, tolerates deliberate interference with other competitors of a life-threatening nature, and act accordingly. Yours sincerely,
PETER HEARNE,
The Limes,
Walsingham,
Maidstone, Kent.

From Mr A. Powys-Lybbe

Sir, When I raced in the 1934 and 1935 Ulster Tourist trophy, the established convention, as it should surely continue to be, was that the first into the corner had the right to it, unimpeded. Infraction of this convention, such as that blatantly exhibited by Villeneuve amounts to interference such as, in other forms of racing, would be penalised. Certainly Schumacher's reaction was unwise, if understandable. But for Villeneuve to have escaped penalty seems beyond belief.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTONY POWYS-LYBBE,
8 Church Street,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

From Mrs Yvette Moyse

Sir, Michael Schumacher has never been forgiven in this country for allegedly depriving local hero Damon Hill of "his" championship title in 1994, a view made all too apparent by the mean-spirited reaction to Schumacher's disaster by Hill himself.

Now, in the midst of rejoicing over Schumacher's perceived comeuppance, can we please remember that this man is not only the outstanding driver of his generation, but that throughout his nightmare first season with Ferrari in 1996, and the cruelly disap-

pointed hopes of 1997, he has never given less than his best, has seldom driven his difficult F310B less than brilliantly, and has given great pleasure to the many admirers of his incomparable skill and admirable sportsmanship.

Yours faithfully,
YVETTE MOYSE,
1 Ridgeway,
Wimbledon, London.

From Mr J.A.J. Berry

Sir, Amid all the hullabaloo, the quite extraordinary successes of the Williams team appear to have been overlooked. In its short life, which began in 1978, it has now won nine constructors' championships and seven drivers' championships. In contrast, Ferrari, since 1950, has eight and nine respectively.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.J. BERRY,
The Manston House,
Abbotts Ann,
Andover, Hampshire.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
First impressions of the 1997 All Blacks — and Jonah Lomu — as the New Zealand party arrives in England for the autumn rugby internationals.

■ **Wednesday**
Have Aston Villa and Liverpool won places in the UEFA Cup third round in a big week of European club football?

■ **Thursday**
Evander Holyfield prepares for his first bout since the infamous fight with Mike Tyson.

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

Elementary errors allow ruthless Australia to triumph in first rugby league international

Britain exposed for their lack of forward thinking

Great Britain 14
Australia 38

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN THESE dog days for British rugby league, what is required is a mongrel in the pack, a forward who can put genuine bite into the tackle and generally bound the opposition. A couple, even, Australia, as always, have an abundance of the breed. On Saturday, at Wembley, they gave a pedigree performance in the first British Gas international match.

Great Britain desperately need to improve their forward play to prevent another series being lost at Old Trafford on Saturday, but the few names that spring to mind are either injured, unavailable or past their sell-by date. Simon Haughton has been criticised for his defence — although that could have applied to any number of the side at Wembley — but the Wigan forward's powerful running would at least take Britain in the direction they need to go.

Get the mental side right and the physical will take care of itself, Andy Goodway said, in which case the British coach and his staff have a significant task trying to instil self-belief in their team. Apart from a heady few minutes when they led 14-10, Britain thought and acted like a beaten team, prone to elementary errors and, most seriously, stopping to admire the imperious Laurie Daley.

Even more than his hat-trick of tries in the first half, Daley was the master craftsman behind Australia's first two wins at Wembley since 1963. The 41,000 crowd rose only to Daley, whose silky

finishing and general orchestration underlined that, as good as Andy Farrell is, the Britain captain is no stand-off half in this class.

Daley is a modest fellow, a captain who knows that teamwork is the key. It was the Australia forwards, criticised at home for their inexperience, for whom he reserved singular praise. "They laid the platform, which made my job so much easier," he said. Tallis, explosive and unstoppable, had a marvellous debut and will not be easily removed from the side by a fit Clyde Thorn, mischievously and relentlessly, slowed Britain down at the play-the-ball; and the veteran, Walters, rolled back the years at hooker.

Unlike the notoriously conservative international matches of recent years at Wembley, this one was awash with colour and flair, played with breadth and at breathless pace. Where Britain's honest toilers tried to compete but ultimately failed was in making inroads when the ball went wide. Without the sustained and committed forward effort, Newlove, Huntie and Radlinski were generally cut down in their own half.

Whether Farrell should remain at stand-off is a less pressing question than who is there to succeed him. Injuries to a succession of half backs mean that Sean Long is the only fit candidate, unless Iestyn Harris's back problem is not as bad as reported. Switched to his creative role at loose forward, Farrell would be more comfortable than he looked on Saturday.

Up against Gower, another of Australia's young Turks, Bobbie Goulding fired intermittently at scrum half. His short-kicking game brought

the first try for Robinson, but, wise to his one-dimensional ploy, Australia closed him down in a second half that yielded Britain no points, only frustration, as Australia exploited the referee's patience with interference.

Significantly, when Britain ran with confidence they unravelled an Australia side that, by their standards, are far from unbeatable. When tackles were broken and players maintained their support, Newlove provided Lowes with an excellent second Britain try in a rapid response to Australia's opening ten-point burst.

If Goodway's mantra for staying calm had been followed, Britain might not have got into the mess that Daley had put them by half-time. No sooner had he claimed his second try than Britain were recklessly caught cold by Australia's quick restart, which Daley applied the gloss finish with almost casual disdain.

The slapdash tackling was reminiscent of the ill-fated world club championship, which has conditioned British supporters to Australian hegemony. Then there were the schoolboy howlers — McDermott failing to play the ball properly and Broadbent, his fellow prop, handing Thorn possession, again from a restart — that led to the opening tries by Daley and Gower.

Another factor was Australia's greater skill, epitomised by the six-man move for Smith's try. Any hope of a second comeback by Britain was killed off by the first of two tries by Mullins, a salmon leap for Daley's cross-field kick, appropriately in the same corner where Jonathan Davies beat him for the winning try in 1994. When he completed a 90-metre burst for his second try in the same spot, Mullins's radiant smile spoke volumes.

GOALKEEPERS: Great Britain: Tony Robinson, Lowes, Gower, Farrell (2), Australia: Tony Daley (2), Mullins (2), Gower, Smith. GOALS: Great Britain: A. Robinson (Wigan), A. Huntie (St Helens), K. Radlinski (Wigan), P. Haughton (St Helens), A. Sullivan (St Helens), A. Farrell (Wigan), R. Goulding (St Helens), B. McDermott (Bradford), J. Lowes (Bradford), P. Broadbent (Sheff), C. Joyce (St Helens), M. Cassidy (Wigan), P. Southrop (Warrington), Substitutes: D. Thompson (Leeds), A. Harty (Leeds), J. McNamee (Bradford), P. Alderson (St Helens). AUSTRALIA: D. Lowy (Brisbane), B. Mullins (Canberra), A. Ellinghausen (Canberra), R. Clides (Perth), W. Salfar (Brisbane), L. O'Leary (Canberra), G. Gower (Perth), W. Stevens (Canberra), S. Walters (North Queensland), S. Thorn (Brisbane), M. Adenomon (Perth), G. Tallis (Brisbane), D. Smith (Brisbane), Substitutes: R. Keane (Melbourne), C. Gower (Canberra), K. Hughes (Canberra), B. Minchew (Leeds), Referee: P. Houston (New Zealand).



Tallis, of Australia, tries to batter a hole through the Great Britain defences at Wembley during the first international of the three-match series

Death knell sounds for a game in crisis

THE tout, a typically reptilian figure in brushed suede bomber jacket and cream chinos, lurked in the shadows at Wembley Park Station. "Who wants tickets?" he murmured. "I'm selling cheap. Real cheap."

By a delicious irony, he was another victim of the market forces that are reshaping modern sport. Ignored, he eventually cut his losses and stalked off. The first rugby league international between Great Britain and Australia was a non-event, a distorted showcase for a game committing slow suicide.

It had the feel of one of those doomed American football missionary matches at the old stadium, a self-consciously brash occasion that evoked all the passion of a whistle drive. There were too many tourists with free tickets, too few signs of authenticity to reassure the committed follower. The attempts at showmanship were risible.

Even the match was an admission of failure. The shadow Australia team, produced by the schism between Super League and the traditionalists of the Australian Rugby League (ARL), had infinitely more pace, percep-

tion and power. The sight of Laurie Daley, their captain, offering the Poms words of encouragement seemed so unnatural it deserved a place in the next episode of the X-Files.

"The love affair with Wembley has gone," Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, admitted. "There has been a general sense of depression and there is no doubt we have been affected by the split in Australia. Their political problems are beyond our control and we have to hope they sort themselves out."

Lindsay believes that will take another year and plans to address his own problems this week by sanctioning the promotion of Huddersfield to the Super League. The Paris club will be asked to regroup and re-enter in 1999, when the credibility of franchises in South Wales and Scotland will be established.

"Next year is going to be a batten-down-the-hatches job," Lindsay said. "The gravity train has stopped and we have to plan for 1999 and beyond. All I can do at the moment is rationalise and stabilise our game. We have a product that is too strong to throw away."

MICHAEL CALVIN



More than a match was lost on Saturday

that it has its own pewter tankard behind the bar, but something has to give. Intriguingly, Lindsay's guests at Wembley were Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle, the men seeking to limit the damage inflicted by rugby union's similarly flawed revolution.

Despite denials across the cultural divide, the destiny of both codes is linked. Each is living beyond its natural means and attempting, with due deference to unsustainable tradition, to extract maximum advantage when comm-

ercial realities dictate that a merger is inevitable.

Clubs of both persuasions are being undermined fatally by the economics of the madhouse. Television income, initially regarded as a panacea, merely accelerates the cycle of boom and bust.

It was not entirely coincidental that both squads on Saturday featured victims of economic circumstance. Paul Atcheson, of Great Britain, was not paid for two months by the now-defunct Oldham Bears and only secured his financial future by signing for St Helens last week. Robbie Kearns, the Australia prop, is unemployed because his club, Perth Reds, has folded.

Players cannot escape blame. They have swallowed up the first £35 million of the £87 million invested in the domestic game by News Corporation, parent company of The Times. Facilities, youth schemes and marketing have remained moribund.

"I feel like apologising to News Corp for not using their money wisely," Lindsay said. "I still believe in the philosophy of Super League, but we were attacked from all sides. The ARL came here, waving £10 million at our best players. Newly-professionalised rugby

union did the same. Our clubs found themselves hurtling towards the edge of the cliff."

Problems are universal. Australian Rules is taking root in Sydney, a heartland of rugby league. This series is regarded as an irrelevance.

Domestically, the logic of merger has never been more clearly defined. The best talent in northern rugby union is gravitating south, leaving scope for a range of league clubs to evolve. The biggest hurdle to fundamental change remains the Rugby Football Union, which will be vulnerable if it fails to secure control of players' contracts.

It does not require much imagination to envisage a new code, featuring league institutions such as Bradford, Wigan, St Helens, Leeds and Hull, alongside union clubs such as Leicester, Wasps, Harlequins, Newcastle, Gloucester, Bath and Cardiff.

"I'm not going to deliver this game on a plate to anyone," Lindsay insisted. "I'm not going to surrender after two years, because ours is the best game. It is just beset by political uncertainties."

As faults go, that is rather like extolling the virtues of a wonderful villa on the slope of an active volcano.

SPEEDWAY

Promoters plead for play-offs to remain

By TONY HOARE

COVENTRY and Exeter delivered surprise results to win the end-of-season play-off competitions amid overwhelming calls for the competition to be continued next year.

The Craven Shield for Elite League teams and Young Shield for the Premier League have faced criticism for causing fixture congestion in the final month of the campaign, but matches drew large crowds and are set to stay in 1998. Both victorious teams beat the league champions on their way to success. Coventry defeating King's Lynn for the first time in five matches to win both legs.

In the Premier League, Exeter took their first big trophy in 14 years. A large crowd packed into the County Ground to see the Falcons pull back a 12-point deficit against a tired Long Eaton side in the second leg — the first success for Colin Hill, their promoter since 1986.

Hill said: "It's fabulous to win something, but these meetings are bad for the nerves! These play-offs have been brilliant for us, the atmosphere is always better with a bigger crowd. It is an excellent way to finish the season."

Graham Drury, the defeated Long Eaton promoter, insisted the shields — named after Peter Craven and Jack Young, double world champions from the Fifties and Sixties — have been successful. He said: "We had our third-best crowd of the season in our home leg of the final. The play-offs are here to stay. I will be striving for them to remain."

Solitary sport finds its way in the modern world

Simon Wilde asks Steve Hale to take a bearing on the most singular appeal of orienteering

FOR a man who spends so much of his time with a compass in one hand and a map in the other, running full pelt through dense forest and skipping from one lichened boulder to another with the sure-footedness of a mountain goat, Steve Hale does not seem to get out much. His idea of a fun winter evening, when it gets dark early, is to stick on a head-torch and run full pelt through dense forest, skipping from one lichened boulder to another ... etc.

"I am an obsessive, we all are," Hale said, gesturing towards a field full of lycra-clad men and women talking of their escapades during a classic distance race at Witherslack Hall in the Lake District, as cathartically as golfers at the 19th. "It is not money or publicity that drives you."

Orienteering has held Hale in thrall for most of his life. His house is situated on an orienteering map, he married an orienteer and, though she is only three years old, their daughter is already running through fields following winding pieces of string at the ends of which are sweets.

Perhaps it is the very privacy of the activity that brings on the eccentricity, for not only are there few financial incentives, there are virtually no spectators at the inevitably remote and ever-changing venues, save for the finishing-lines in big races in Scandinavia, the sport's stronghold.

"When I am running, all I have time to think about is where I am and where I am supposed to be going. Lose concentration and you lose time," Hale, who crashed through the undergrowth on his way to a high placing on Saturday, said. "It can be a shock when you burst out into the field at the end and are hit by a wall of sound. It is something orienteers are not used to, unlike footballers, who regularly play in front of 25,000 people."

The man-versus-nature solitariness has also encouraged claims that orienteering is one of the last true



Loneliness of the long-distance orienteer: Hale wants a new dimension added to the man-versus-nature sport by encouraging spectators

amateur sports, though stress points are emerging as commercial pressures grow — and Hale, the British No 1, is controversially at the centre of some of them.

Spectator-points are becoming more of a feature at the big events and there is talk of staging a race accessible to the public and television cameras in a parkland setting in London during the build-up to the world championships in Inverness in 1999. This weekend's meeting attracted a strong field wanting to use the visit as reconnaissance for Scotland and two World Cup events in the Lakes next May.

Hale, who is 34 and about at his peak, revels in the idea of supporters, believing that their presence would add a much-needed dimension, but the purists are repelled by the notion of Hale-boppers. They are intent on

saving the sport's soul from corrupting influences and, until recently at any rate, were getting their way.

Prize-money remains footing and arguably only one man — Jorgen Martenssen, of Sweden — earns a living. Hale merely covers his costs. The sport has also relied heavily on self-regulation, with competitors trusted to abide by rulings on local hazards, but it has always been possible for a struggler to be overtaken by one of the favourites and then follow him or her to the finish without further recourse to their map. There are ways of dealing with such occurrences — Hale's approach would be to "warn off" such a pursuer — but they have had bearings on important championships.

But the question now is whether self-regulation can survive as competition grows ever fiercer. Seven years

ago, Hale moved to Sweden to learn what he could from its high-class system: Sweden has long had the best natural and financial resources for orienteering and he knew he could not get to the top without racing there. He saved up enough from his computer job to send himself there for a year to race and sharpen his navigational skills. It was there, too, that he met his wife, which led him to abandon plans to return to Britain. Sweden is his home now.

But Hale's presence, and that of other foreign competitors, upset Sweden's national team leadership and they have recently changed the qualification rules for elite races so that foreign nationals can no longer take part. Hale's showing in the last world championships was disappointing, but he had

stunned the Swedes by bouncing back and winning their national championships.

"I have had my collisions with them in the past couple of years," he said. "What they have done goes against the whole ethos. The irony is that we help each other so much. We go on training camps together and coach each other. But the Swedes are the Big Brother of the sport. They can manage without outside help. Everyone likes to beat the Swedes."

It was rumoured that during Saturday's race a few competitors scaled a farmer's wall rather than circumvent it, as they had been instructed to by the organisers. Such, apparently, is now the demand for world ranking points. Orienteering is in for an interesting future. Let us hope they can all continue to distinguish the wood from the trees.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles calm Storm with determined fightback

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE first-leg matches in the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup were staged at the weekend and, while Manchester Storm and Ayr Scottish Eagles still have much to play for, Cardiff Devils appear to have their place booked in next month's final.

When Manchester led 3-0 after less than five minutes, they must have been confident of taking a big lead to Scotland for the second leg next Saturday, but they had failed to take into account Ayr's fighting spirit. The Eagles reduced the deficit within two minutes and, although the Storm soon restored their three-goal margin, it was 4-2 by the first interval. Two second-period goals brought the Eagles level by the second break and a scoreless third session followed.

In contrast, Cardiff Devils will take a four-goal lead into their second leg against Newcastle Cobras after a 6-2 win on Saturday. Steve Thornton opened Cardiff's account while two Newcastle players were in the penalty box. Vezio Sacratini quickly made it 2-0.

A third Cardiff goal came early in the second period, but the Cobras managed to reduce the deficit to 3-2 by midway through the session. Cardiff's superior teamwork proved decisive, however, and the final scoreline was a fair reflection of the game.

In the first match in the Express Cup, Sheffield Steelers suffered their worst defeat for more than two years when they lost 9-1 to Nottingham Panthers.

RUGBY UNION: HOLDERS MAKE UNEVEN PROGRESS TO HEINEKEN CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Carrat gives Pontypridd stick

Brive 25
Pontypridd 20

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIVE

THE least that there can be between these two clubs now is respect. In one sense, that was the more significant result of the quarter-final play-off at the Stade Municipal here on Saturday, even though victory carries Brive, the holders of the Heineken Cup, to a quarter-final with Wasps at Loftus Road next Sunday.

It will be hard to bury the past completely — not while the threat of legal action to be taken over the bar-room brawl that followed the first pool match between the two in mid-September or not while a suspended fine remains outstanding, imposed for the mass brawl that took place on the field the same day — but the salutations between players from Brive and Pontypridd seemed genuine enough.

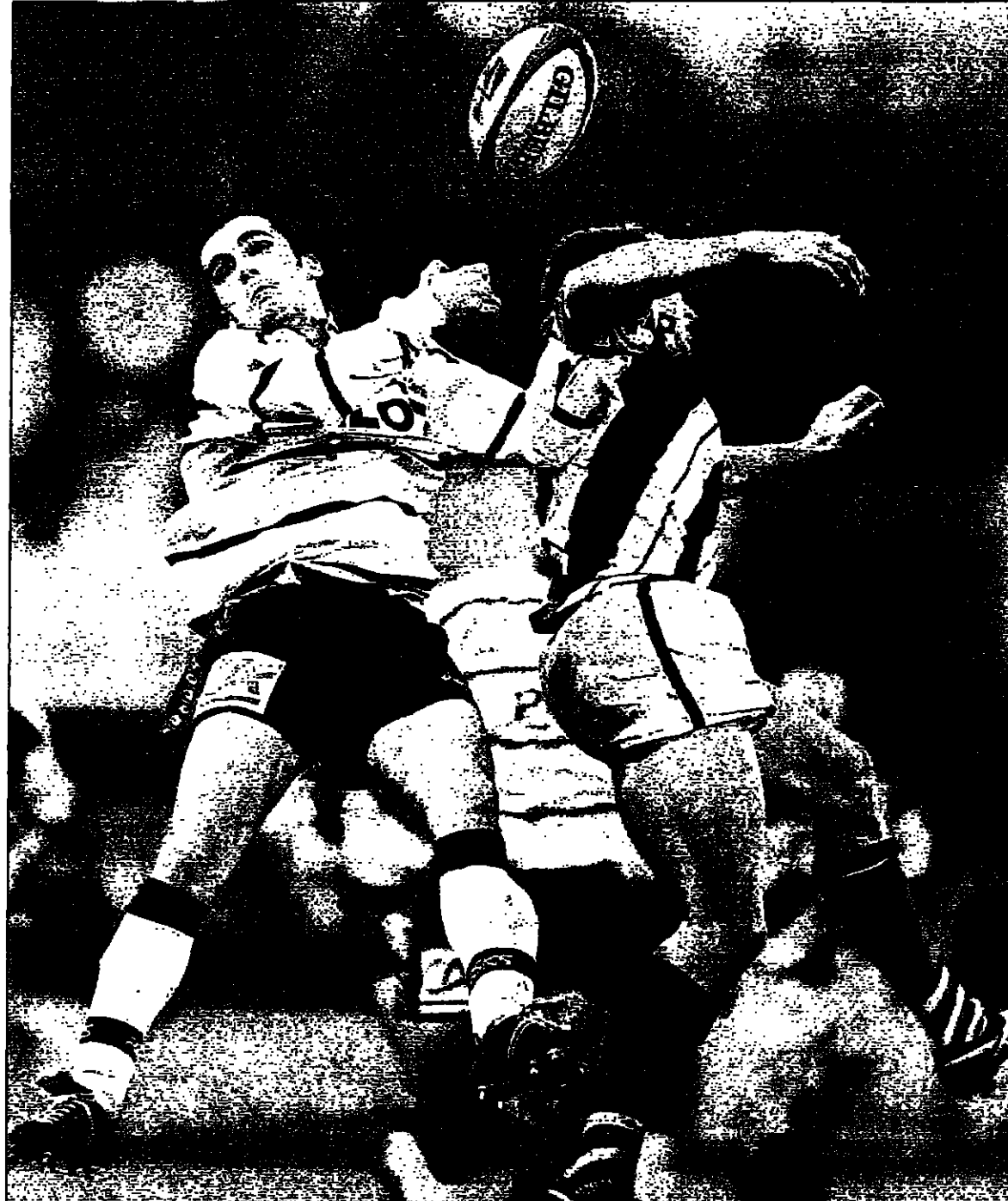
Even Patrick Sebastian, the Brive president and voluble in defence of his players seven weeks earlier, acknowledged Pontypridd's quality. Yet arguments suggesting that the Welsh club would have won at full strength, or if Neil Jenkins had kicked two penalty goal opportunities in the final quarter, are fruitless.

At half-time, the Welsh League champions, short of half a team by injuries and the judicial process, were dead and buried; clearly Brive, leading by 18 points after denying Pontypridd even a sniff of their tryline, believed that to be so, before a remarkable 17 minutes of rugby left the Frenchmen gazing at a two-point deficit and their title slipping away.

That they won by putting together their most sustained period of continuous play is infinitely to their credit, but it is hard to feel anything but sympathy for Pontypridd. A year ago, points difference denied them progress in the Heineken Cup; this season, in the most demanding of pools, they have lost by one point and five points in Brive's fortress and, on Saturday, they threw up the game's hero in Dafydd James.

Brive know all about James: he scored two tries against them at the first time of asking, a third at Saris Road and his fourth on Saturday pulled Pontypridd level. Yet it was not so much his try-scoring as the all-round level of the centre's game that commanded attention. Wales will doubtless prefer him on the wing, but James, only 22, is becoming a considerable centre in his own right.

Brive, it should be remembered, had not played together for three weeks because of the effects of the Latin Cup on French domestic rugby, but you would not have thought so from the productivity of their first half. Having scored ten points in as many minutes, it was as much their own errors in the



Lamaison, who scored Brive's first try, leaps for the ball with Wyatt during the 25-20 defeat of Pontypridd

tackle and in finishing that denied them an even greater lead.

Their second try will haunt Pontypridd: Carboneau was allowed to erupt straight through a lineout, the influential Magne and Duboisset offered support and Travers, the dynamic hooker, finished the movement. Even when Jenkins kicked two goals just after half-time, there seemed little for Brive to worry over, until the pressure that they had exerted throughout the first half was turned back on them.

Williams, so sound throughout, turned a retreating five-metre scrum into the launching pad for a try by Spiller and the red-headed flanker was there again after John had worked the short side, adding his pace to help create the try scored by James. Jenkins' conversion sounded the alarm bells in French ears and, within two minutes, Brive had retrieved the position: Wyatt failed to hold Penaud's steeping kick. Magne's pass gave Carrat his chance at the corner and Brive their quarter-final.

SCORERS: Brive: Tries: Lamaison (4th), Travers (25), Carrat (58). Conversions: Lamaison 2, Penally goal. Pontypridd: Tries: Spiller (54), James (57). Conversions: Jenkins 2. Penalty goals: Jenkins 2 (46, 49).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Brive first): 7-0, 10-0, 15-0, 18-0 (half-time), 18-3, 18-6, 18-13, 18-20, 25-20.
BRIVE: S. Viane, P. Bonaldi, C. Lamaison, D. Verdier, J. Cornet, A. Penaud, P. Carboneau, D. Cassid, L. Travers, R. Cressy (prop), D. Laporte, R. Jenkins, E. Magne, Y. Marthe (prop), P. Lichon, S. J. van der Linden (prop), L. Magill, S. J. O'Mahony, F. Duboisset (prop), R. Somers, S. J.
PONTYPRIDD: G. Wyatt, G. Lewis, S. Lewis (prop), S. Enoch, D. James, P. Ford, N. Jenkins, P. John, N. Brown (prop), A. Griffiths, S. J. Evans, M. Griffiths, M. Rowley, G. Prosser, M. Spiller, M. Williams, M. Lloyd (prop), G. Lewis, 74.
Referee: J. Fleming (Scotland).

Defeat saves Llanelli from difficult choice

Cardiff 24
Llanelli 20

BY GERALD DAVIES

CARDIFF spared the organisers of the Heineken Cup from potential embarrassment by beating Llanelli in Saturday's tussle for a quarter-final place. Llanelli, had they won, would have been faced with the awkward decision of either fulfilling a quarter-final fixture against Bath or meeting the All Blacks.

Llanelli felt, of course, that it would be an honour to play against England's premier club of the last dozen years or so. And, of course, they would be proud to continue to participate in the European tournament. But, just in case it might have escaped anyone's notice, the New Zealanders are bigger than both.

In other words, as they would have said at Stradey Park, thanks ever so much, but we would prefer to play our visitors from the southern hemisphere. Thus, we might have found red faces all around the European Rugby Cup Ltd deliberating table, which, given their less than satisfactory way of administering their disciplinary measures, would have been well deserved.

Cardiff came to their assistance — only just, for the match was a close-run thing — but who, in the meantime, is to

assist Cardiff? They find themselves presently in a groove whereby they amass a comfortable lead, as they did recently against both Bridgend and Ebbw Vale, only to surrender the initiative and end up being given an awful fright. It was the same on Saturday, when Llanelli came dangerously close to turning the tables. Indeed, the visitors eventually outscored them by three tries to two.

"We lack discipline," was the conclusion of Terry Holmes, the Cardiff coach. "We were leading 21-3 and all we needed was to go on and get another score, but we didn't. We committed too many errors and we need to mend our ways before meeting Bath."

Their substantial lead was established three minutes into the second half, when Gregori Kacala, to his great and spontaneous delight, scored Cardiff's second try, which was converted by Jarvis, who had already kicked three penalty goals in the first half, when Justin Thomas, on his 25th birthday, scored a fine try.

In a game of sporadic excitement, Cardiff preferred to keep things tight while Llanelli, at every opportunity, tried to play fast and loose, but without much success in that first 40 minutes, when Warlow's penalty goal had provided their only points.

Then, when the contest seemed all over bar the shouting, Llanelli suddenly hit a

purple patch. There was little continuity to their play, no definite rhythm, but they had in their midst a few players who could make a difference and three tries came in eight minutes. Boobyer cut through the middle from halfway to pave a path from McBryde's score and a quick tapper penalty created the space for Proctor's try.

The third try was the best of the three. Darryl Williams, breaking from within his own ten-metre line, was supported by Steve Jones, who gave the final pass to Garon Evans. With Warlow's conversion, there was only a point in it and Cardiff won on the rack, which lent the match the kind of real excitement that it had mostly lacked.

A penalty by Jarvis extended the lead, but each time that Llanelli had the ball, Cardiff supporters shuddered — and there were many such moments, even though, at the end, it was their players who were exerting pressure.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Thomas (25th), Kacala (42), Gomerall, Jarvis. Penalties: Jarvis 4 (6, 34, 40, 57). Llanelli: Tries: McBryde (45), Proctor (52), Evans (54). Conversions: Warlow. Penalty goal: Warlow (26).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Cardiff first): 3-0, 9-0, 9-3, 11-3, 14-3 (half-time), 21-3, 21-6, 21-13, 21-20, 24-20.

CARDIFF: J. Thomas, N. Walker, L. Davies, S. Hill (prop), R. Jones, D. Morgan, G. Jones, R. Howler, S. Jones, J. Humphreys, D. Young, J. Tal, D. Jones, G. Kacala, G. Jones (prop), J. Proctor, 71, S. Williams.

LLANELLI: S. Jones, W. Proctor, N. Boobyer, F. Bolea (prop), D. Williams, 14, G. Evans (prop), A. Thomas, 76, C. Warlow, R. Morris, R. Jones (prop), S. Gable, 53, R. McBryde, H. Williams, J. Jones, D. Hodges (prop), S. Ford, 53, M. Voyke, A. Gibbs, L. Jones, H. Jenkins. Referee: E. Morrison (Ireland).

Ireland name five new caps

IRELAND have named five players — in key positions — who could hardly be described as household names even in their own country to face New Zealand on Saturday week at Lansdowne Road (Karl Johnston writes).

Kevin Nowlan, at full back, John McWeeney, on the wing, Conor McGuinness, at scrum half, Malcolm O'Kelly at lock and Kieron Dawson at open-side flanker will all make their debuts against the All Blacks. Yet it was an indication of the way that the Brian Ashton-inspired squad has been evolving over the past six weeks that there were few raised eyebrows at the press conference yesterday.

Pat Whelan, the Ireland manager, said that the performances of the St Mary's trio of Nowlan, McWeeney and McGuinness in European competition had helped to gain them selection. Injuries have played their part, though the absence of Jeremy Davidson, the British Isles lock, gives O'Kelly his chance, while Richard Wallace and Conor O'Shea, had they been fit, might well have been preferred to

Nowlan and McWeeney. Dawson and McGuinness have, unquestionably, been chosen on merit.

Nowlan, 21, made his Leinster debut against Connacht in August and scored the try that won the Guinness inter-provincial championship. McWeeney, another 21-year-old, also made his Leinster debut this season. McGuinness, 22, was the first-choice scrum half last year for Connacht, while O'Kelly and Dawson have both played for Ireland at A-team level.

Ireland: K. Nowlan (St Mary's College), D. Hodge (St Mary's College), R. Henderson (Wasps), E. Sheehan (Galwegians), C. McGuinness (St Mary's College), N. Poppell (Newcastle), K. Wood (Hibernians), C. Jones (Sarsfield), M. O'Kelly (London Irish), E. Halsey (Shannon), K. Dawson (London Irish), E. Miller (Leinster), R. Morris (Connacht), D. Hodges (London Irish), B. O'Donnell (Connacht), R. Conboy (Newcastle), R. Neade (Newcastle), D. Collins (Sarsfield).

□ Dominic Crotty, David O'Mahony and Victor Costello are the only capped players in the Ireland Development XV that will play The Exiles in Limerick on November 12.

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CHANGING TIMES

Scots so nervous about the nineties

Leicester 90
Glasgow 19

BY MARK SOUSTER

RECORDS tumbled at Welford Road after a performance described by Bob Dwyer as the best since he took charge, one that ensures a trip to Pau in the quarter-finals of the Heineken Cup next Sunday. It was the biggest total by a side in the tournament, the highest number of tries (14) — four from Michael Horak, the full back — and the best individual tally, 35 points, by Joel Sturges.

While Dwyer had every reason to smile, the embarrassing nature of Glasgow's defeat could have serious ramifications for Scottish rugby. This mis-match will only lend weight to the argument that neither Scotland, nor Ireland for that matter, deserve to

have three districts in the competition. That school of thought questions whether it is fair that the English have to toil through 22 games of a league season to get into Europe, while the Scots and Irish play a mere three.

Any moves to limit the Celtic involvement, though, should be resisted strongly. For the collective well-being of northern hemisphere rugby, surely the overriding consideration, little benefit would be derived from a sterile Anglo-French enterprise.

Hamish Fyfe, the Glasgow manager, spoke of learning from this humiliation. "It was not a good result from that perspective [Scottish representation in Europe], but I think we have contributed and another year of professionalism will help," he said.

One consolation was James Craig's splendid solo try from 65 metres after 13 minutes. However, the least one could

have expected from Glasgow, for whom this was Kevin Greene's last game as coach, was passion and commitment. Their first-time tackling was inept, they surrendered possession too easily and were routinely bullied in the forward exchanges.

Dwyer said: "It was very good. We varied the point of attack well, driving through the middle, around the edges and through the midfield and out wide. It makes it very difficult to defend against because you don't know where the impact will be."

The biggest cheer for the 6,400 crowd was the introduction of Dean Richards after two minutes. He replaced Matt Poole, thought to have ruptured a medial ligament. Richards scored a try and such was Leicester's superiority that they afforded him a comfort break in the second half, playing with only 14 men. Fritz van Heerden, the South

African, watched the mauling and will be available for the trip to Pau after joining from Western Province.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Horak 4 (4th, 24, 41, 58), Sturges 3 (18, 38, 73), Cockrell 2 (27, 51), Conn (18), Richards (52), Healey (24), Greenwood (63), Lloyd (65). Conversions: Sturges 4, O'Shea 2. Tries: Craig (13), Little (77), Hayes (80). Conversions: Hayes 2.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 7-0, 7-5, 14-5, 19-5, 24-5, 29-5, 35-5, 42-5, 50-5 (half-time), 57-5, 64-5, 69-5, 76-5, 83-5, 90-5, 97-5, 99-5.

LEICESTER: M. Horak, A. Healey, W. Greenwood, S. Poole (prop), N. Malone (68th), L. Lloyd (prop), C. Jones, 70, J. Sturges, W. Savill, P. Franchet, R. Cockrell, G. Howes (prop), D. Gifford, 40, M. Johnson, M. Poole (prop), D. Richards, 2, prop: G. Gustard, 73, M. Conn, N. Beck, E. Miller.

GLASGOW: C. Sengster (Strling County), D. Stark (Glasgow Hawks), prop: G. Fraser, R. Morrison, 26, M. McGinnis (Glasgow Hawks), J. Jenkins (Strling County), prop: M. Maclellan, Glasgow Hawks, 29, J. Craig (West of Scotland), G. Little, Glasgow Hawks, 53, T. Hayes (Strling County), F. Scott (West of Scotland), G. McWhirter (Glasgow Hawks), G. Bulloch (West of Scotland), prop: G. Docherty, Glasgow Hawks, 73, A. White (Strling County), prop: M. Beckett, Glasgow Hawks, 70, M. Harris (Strling County), prop: S. Bagley, Glasgow Hawks, 87, G. Poole (West of Scotland), F. Wallace (Glasgow Hawks), prop: J. Shaw, West of Scotland, 53, J. Sinclair (Widnes), D. McLach (West of Scotland). Referee: J. Durné (France).

GOLF: CHART HILLS TEST WILL DECIDE JUNIOR TOUR'S OVERALL CHAMPION

Players prepare for final reckoning

BY MEL WEBB

NINE months of intense competition involving some of the best young junior golfers in the United Kingdom reaches its climax next weekend when the best of them go head-to-head in the season-ending Tournament of Champions of the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT), sponsored for the first time this year by the Japanese motor manufacturer in association with *The Times*.

The orders of merit for the National, Southern and Northern divisions of the Tour have been decided in the last week. Now comes the biggest test of all. On Saturday and Sunday, the 30 players who have won or tied for victory in the 25 tournaments that have been staged on the three divisions will meet to decide the victor of the tour.

It is somehow appropriate that the JGT should go to Chart Hills for their tournament of champions. The Kent club is the European headquarters of the worldwide group of golf academies operated under the name of David Leadbetter, the patron

of the JGT, whose support and advice has been priceless. Picking a likely winner at Chart Hills is no easy task, although there are a handful of players who stand out. Luke Barkaway, for instance, is a member of the host club who won the National division tournament there. The local knowledge he can bring to bear could prove crucial.

Karl Johnson, last year's National winner, was 11 shots off the pace this time, but he will be anxious to end his season on a high note, while Gareth White, who because of his international commitments had to restrict his season to the Northern division, will need some watching. So will Daniel Kitteridge, who made a muted start to the season, but was the player everybody had to beat from mid-summer onwards.

FINAL ORDERS OF MERIT: National division: Leading score (aggregate of best seven rounds): 518: G. Gifford (Rotherham), 519: J. Dickinson (Salford), 520: J. Loxton (Rotherham), 521: M. Harris (Rotherham), 522: M. Harris (Rotherham), 523: A. Ward (Whittington Heath), 524: D. Kitteridge (Great Heath), 525: J. Smith (Sutton Coldfield), 526: P. Smith (Kidderminster), 527: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 528: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 529: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 530: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 531: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 532: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 533: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 534: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 535: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 536: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 537: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 538: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 539: S. Richards (Kidderminster), 540: S. Richards (Kidderminster).

531: A. Colley (Ludbrook Park), C. Stevenson (Whittington Heath), 532: S. McKinnon (Stoke Poges), 533: J. Gifford (West London), 534: J. Wood (Cotnam Park), S. Williams (Ludbrook Park), Southern division: Leading score (aggregate of best six rounds): 448: R. Poole (Rye Mill), 449: M. Boller (Rye Mill), 450: J. Leverage (Chesham), 451: G. Ryan (Cambridge Heath), 452: W. Wood (Rotherham), 453: W. Wood (Rotherham), 454: R. McEvoy (Rotherham), 455: J. Kavanagh (Stoke Newington), 456: B. (Marlborough), 457: N. Convey (Chesham Park), 458: J. Rowell (Cambridge Heath), 459: P. Rotherham (Cambridge Heath), 460: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 461: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 462: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 463: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 464: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 465: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 466: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 467: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 468: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 469: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath), 470: B. Williams (Cambridge Heath).

541: A. Richards (Gillingham), 542: A. Richards (Gillingham), 543: A. Richards (Gillingham), 544: A. Richards (Gillingham), 545: A. Richards (Gillingham), 546: A. Richards (Gillingham), 547: A. Richards (Gillingham), 548: A. Richards (Gillingham), 549: A. Richards (Gillingham), 550: A. Richards (Gillingham), 551: A. Richards (Gillingham), 552: A. Richards (Gillingham), 553: A. Richards (Gillingham), 554: A. Richards (Gillingham), 555: A. Richards (Gillingham), 556: A. Richards (Gillingham), 557: A. Richards (Gillingham), 558: A. Richards (Gillingham), 559: A. Richards (Gillingham), 560: A. Richards (Gillingham), 561: A. Richards (Gillingham), 562: A. Richards (Gillingham), 563: A. Richards (Gillingham), 564: A. Richards (Gillingham), 565: A. Richards (Gillingham), 566: A. Richards (Gillingham), 567: A. Richards (Gillingham), 568: A. Richards (Gillingham), 569: A. Richards (Gillingham), 570: A. Richards (Gillingham).

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Resisting the bait from believers of a fisherman's tale

Probably the daftest suggestion to have surfaced in angling in my lifetime has bobbed up again over the past couple of months. How daft is "daftest" when it comes to angling? It is very daft indeed. Let me give some clues.

This idea is dafter than the suggestion once made to the late, great Richard Walker that weighting nymphs should be banned from trout fishing because all they did was to teach the fish to feed on the bottom. It is dafter even than the National Federation of Anglers' (NFA) plan for a 10 million intergalactic HQ at Holme Pierrepont, complete with an underwater observation chamber where employees could watch fish doing whatever fish do in those murky waters when they are not being eaten by cormorants.

The suggestion is that angling should push to become an Olympic sport. This idea was first floated some years ago by a former England international fly-fisherman now living — perhaps appropriately — in California. At the time, sensible folk put their heads under the blankets in the hope that it would go away — which, mercifully, it did — but every now and then it resurfaces. It has resurfaced in several contexts over the silly season, each time to be taken up by someone.

The arguments are that no sport is more international or has more participants. That many lesser activities have been awarded Olympic status. That television coverage would show just how fascinating angling is to the non-angler, interest would surge and sponsors would fall over our landing nets in their haste to grab pieces of the action. That the big-time would come. I find it difficult to take this mad notion even half-seriously, but because a few apparently do and because this silliest of stories does keep bobbing up, perhaps it should be considered.

There are three aspects to the idea. The first is the serious, the second is the practical, the third is plain barney.

The serious first. The notion of angling pursuing Olympic status, through competitions, would get no

BRIAN CLARKE



on a can of worms still bobbing to the surface

support from the vast majority of fishermen. Competitive fishing is a minority pursuit within angling as a whole. Reliable figures suggest that only 10 per cent or so of coarse anglers, 5 per cent of sea anglers and around 1 per cent of game anglers fish matches regularly. The vast majority of anglers never go near a match in their lives and, indeed, millions are against match-fishing on principle.

Next, the essential contest in other sports qualifying for the Olympics is one between human beings. They pit their skills and physical resources directly against one another. That is not what angling is about. The essential contest in angling is that between man and fish. To fish competitively — man against man — changes that premise utterly.

There is the field sports dimension. The pursuit of Olympic status for angling would not only cause disquiet to millions who fish, it would provide a focal point for the more extreme fringes of the animal rights movement. The unilateral and misguided decision of the leaders of angling's representative bodies a couple of years ago to forge some links with the fox-hunters and others has lowered a boundary that should still be in place.

There is the practicality of it. The idea that watching the world's best local rod-tips would make for any kind of spectator sport, a television

sport and a goldmine for sponsors would fall at the first fence.

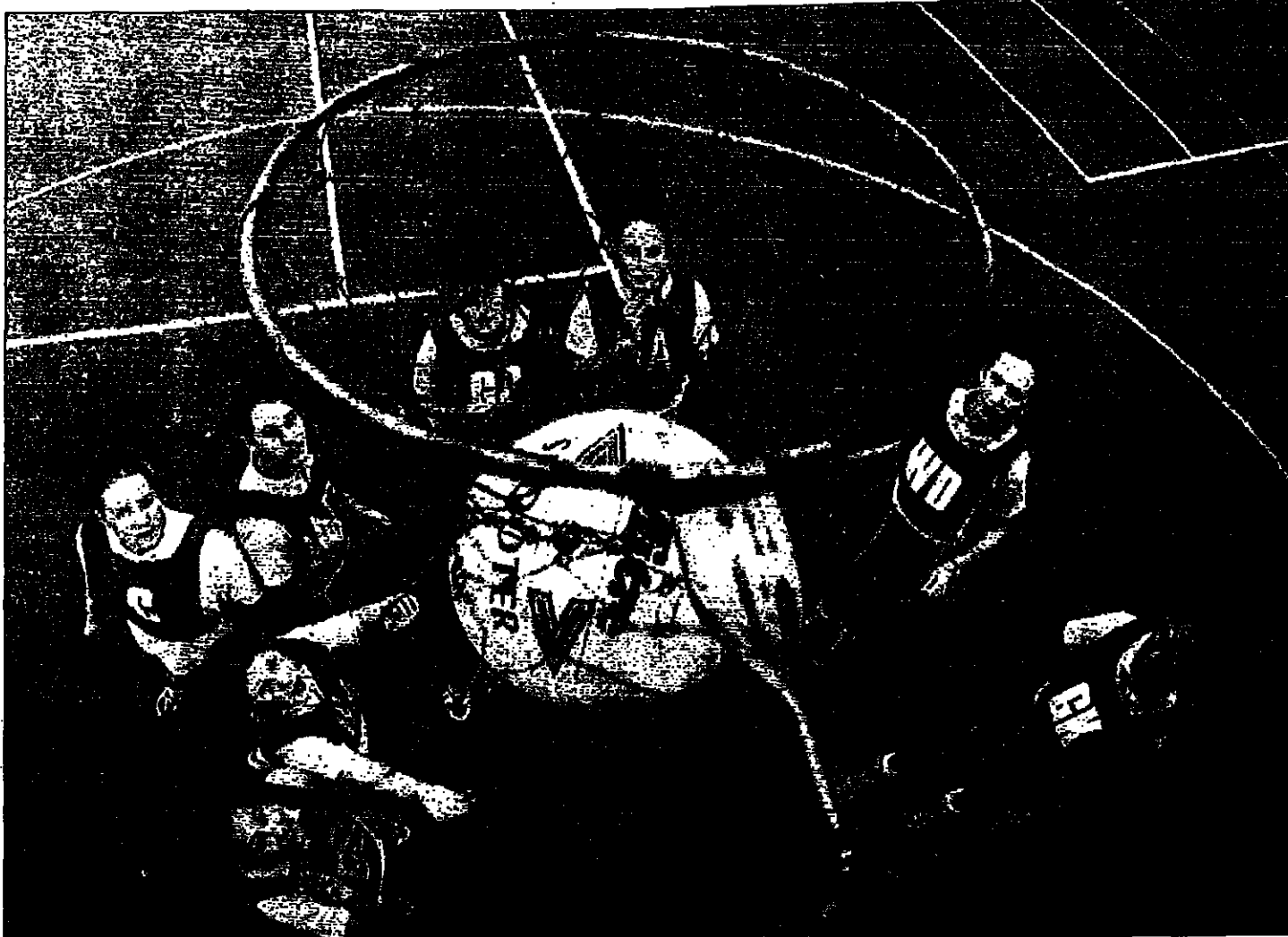
It is not that angling cannot be turned into, for example, excellent television, but to be made watchable, it has to be made comprehensible. An understanding of the compulsions and motivations would need to be communicated. There would have to be much space and diversion and focus on the beautiful. There is no room for diversion and beauty in competitive fishing. That is about banging them out as fast as possible in case the next man along gets more.

The point about getting more sponsorship money into angling is well understood — not least because of the Sports Council's bizarre sense of funding priorities. Last year, the council awarded more cash to the Petanque Association than to the Salmon and Trout Association and six times as much to the English La Crosse Association as to the NFA. Even so — and even if the limitations of angling as a viewer sport could be overcome — it is angling as a whole that needs the cash, not one small segment.

So it is only the barny side of the suggestion that is left. This really appeals. There would be no problem in choosing a venue for angling's Olympics: it would be the Superbowl, naturally. Once flooded — it would, of course, be drained down again on alternate days for track events — there would be ample room for several nations to compete side-by-side around the perimeter, with several more in boats.

To listen things up for the spectator — there might well be one — fringe events could be staged. Fastest time to the water after it has been stocked would be one possibility. Wildest exaggeration of a fish not over 3lb would be another. There could be bonus points for the greatest number of cameramen hooked on a backcast. And so on. Yes, now I come to think of it, the opportunities do seem endless. Yes, run like this, the sport could be made watchable. So angling for the Olympics? Er, no.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month



Shooting practice for the netball team at Cape Cornwall School where much-needed indoor facilities are eagerly awaited

Western outpost rejects isolation

BY DAVID POWELL

WHICH of these statements is false? Cape Cornwall School netball players get out of bed earlier than other teams in the west of England. Cape Cornwall School is small for a comprehensive, a shallow pool from which to fish sporting talent. Cape Cornwall School has no indoor netball court and the outdoor courts are exposed to some of the worst weather in Britain. Cape Cornwall School, the most westerly place of secondary education on the British mainland, feels like giving up.

Robin Kneebone, the head teacher, stands on the spot in the school grounds, 400ft above sea level where he expects a sports hall to be built soon. His view of sport is as clear as the one he has across the Atlantic. Give up? This is a place where 20 per cent of pupils are on free school meals, because of low local wages and high unemployment, but it is also a place where

the pockets jangle with the currency of sport.

"Netball, cricket, and other sports, can be successful in small state schools given the right coaching and support from staff and parents," Kneebone said. In other words, it takes a team to make a team.

Look in the opposite direction from the Atlantic shoreline and your mind's eye glimpses a sea of debris, of bigger schools, across the west, knocked flat by the Cape wave. Among them is Millfield, with sports facilities so magnificent they feature in up-market holiday packages.

There is a look of unbridled joy on the face of Carol Nicholls, a school secretary and mother of two of Cape Cornwall's most successful



netball players, Rachel and Becky. She is recalling the day the under-16 team defeated Millfield in the West of England championships to reach the national finals. "Even before the final was played, they had it down on the board that Millfield were going to go through," Nicholls said.

Big mistake.

That was a few years ago, but the standard was set. No more the feeling that this "remote small school," as Kneebone describes it, could not be noticed. "Dedication and training bring results, as the St Just Cricket Club under-15s proved this year. With a team almost wholly comprising school players, it won the Sun Life of Canada national knockout tournament.

Cape Cornwall School can be found in St Just, serving Land's End, among other places, in its wide catchment area. Standards in football, rugby and hockey have also improved and if too small for netball, the gym allows winter cricket nets. The under-13s are county champions and Jason Hall is the South-West captain. The under-14 and under-16 netball teams will represent Cornwall in the area championships.

According to Andrea Bennetts, head of PE, teams sometimes depart for competition as early as 5am, which she says is bound to affect performance. Another drawback is weather interference. She cannot wait for the sports hall, for which Lottery funding has been approved in principle.

Rachel and Becky Nicholls have left the school, but remain an inspiration. Becky, 16, is an England Under-19 triallist, captains Cornwall under-18s, and plays at under-21 level for West of England.

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CHANGING TIMES

Sally Jones returns to school to discover a soft spot for the old-fashioned art of riding side-saddle

Saddled with a new style

Sit deep in the saddle: press down hard with the back of your right knee and keep that right foot pointing downwards," commanded my instructor Clarissa Dawson. "Hips square, facing forward and whatever you do, keep that right shoulder back." My mount Houghton's Ruby, Harry for short, accelerated into a lively trot. At once, my precarious equilibrium vanished as I slouched, squirmed in the saddle and bounced like a pea on a drum, clinging to the mane with one hand and wondering how the Queen manages to look so poised at the Trooping the Colour.

Riding side-saddle may have an elegantly haughty image but even for those like me with experience riding astride, the first attempts can prove awkward. It took another half-hour's alternate walking and trotting in the indoor school of Pittern Hill Riding School at Kington, Warwickshire, one of Britain's top side-saddle centres, before I could contort that wayward

SPORT FOR ALL

purs so that the instructor can see the position of their legs and seat, turn-out is a vital part of side-saddle competitions and Clarissa kitted us out in the traditional costume. She looked breathtakingly smart in the formal version of black silk top hat, veil, false bun (compulsory in showing classes for riders with short hair) cream stock, checked waistcoat and black "habri" — a tailored jacket and full-skirted "apron" — over matching breeches and long black boots. I wore a more workaday ensemble of black peaked cap, cream shirt and tie beneath a flatteringly cut jacket and apron in the pretty ivory green tweed often seen in working hunter classes.

Etiquette," explained Clarissa, "is still very important. You wear a top hat only in major competitions — county shows and above — and only if your class is after midday. In smaller shows and in morning classes, you wear a bowler. A little make-up is always worn to lift the features under the veil, which helps you to keep the top hat in place; you never wear earrings; gloves are always brown, because black signifies mourning and if you're in mourning you shouldn't be riding. It sounds quirky but there are good reasons for most of the rules."

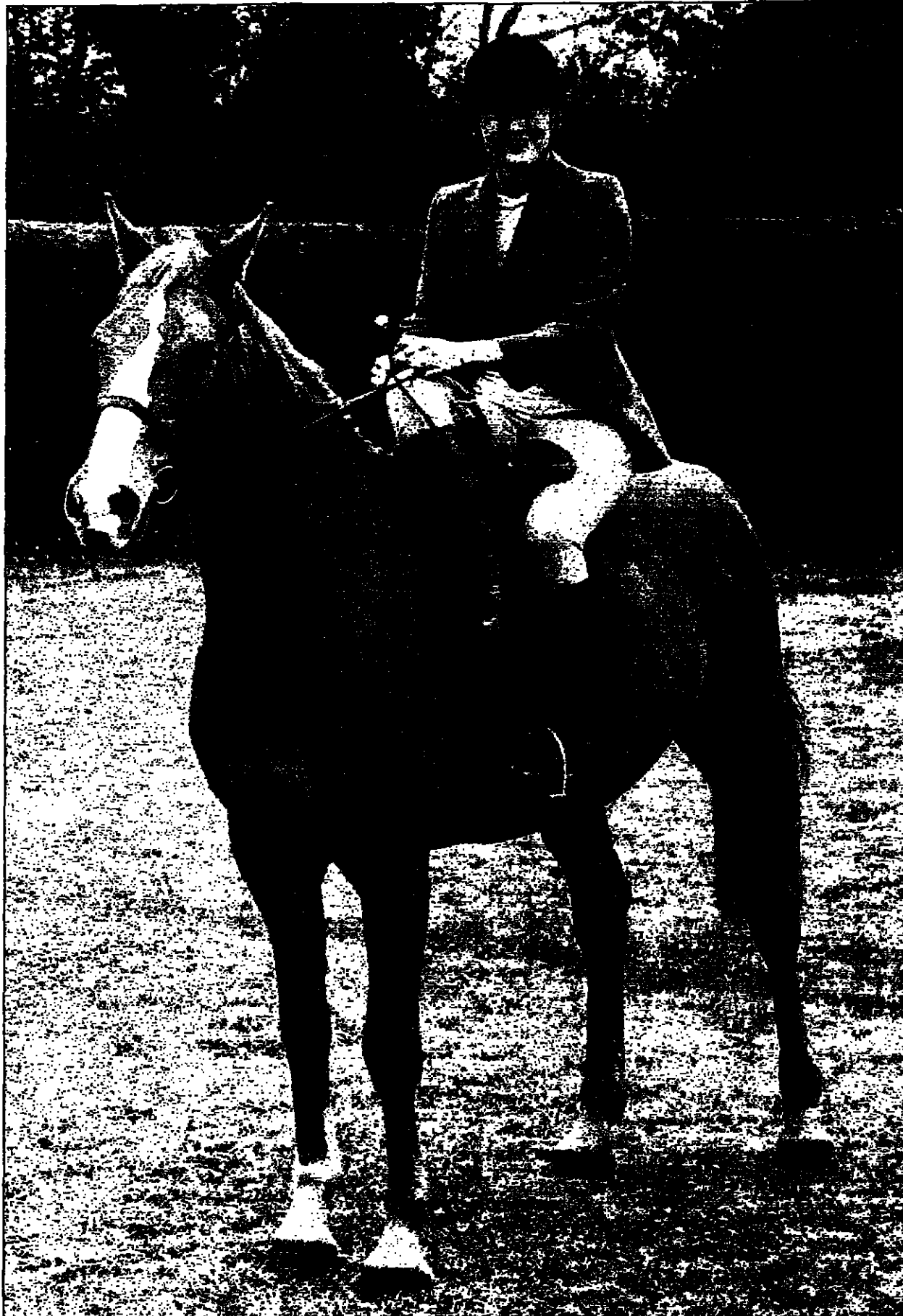
We mounted up again and toured Pittern Hill's spectacular landscaped grounds while I tried desperately to emulate Clarissa's effortless poise. I began to feel more like my childhood heroine, Lady Venetia Ferrers, a proud cavalier beauty from the pages of an historical romance, galloping fearlessly through the woods.

It is evidently a widely-held fantasy as growing numbers of women of all ages are taking up the ancient sport which until the past 20 years was seen as the sole preserve of leathery old trouts on the hunting field. It became so unfashionable after the Second World War that many old side-saddles were burnt, and there is now a shortage as modern versions are either too expensive or too weak.

Most newcomers buy or borrow a dilapidated saddle to start with, then upgrade to a smarter version for higher class competition, generally using a lighter saddle for jumping and a more solid one for showing and equitation classes. Although many riders come into the sport attracted by its glamour and tradition, most discover that, done properly, it is probably more secure than riding astride.

"Of course I love the elegance of it," confessed Clarissa, who took it up 12 years ago, "but for me it's vital to be effective as well as elegant." One of her pupils, Joyce Huise, from Norfolk, is typical of the new breed of rider: despite a life dominated by horses, she took up side-saddle only last summer, got hooked and now makes the two-and-a-half hour trip from Swaffham to Warwickshire each week to train at Pittern Hill.

"I'd longed to hunt side-saddle because it was such a challenge," she said, "and I managed it last season. I



Sally Jones: "I began to feel like my childhood heroine, Lady Venetia Ferrers, a beauty from an historical romance"



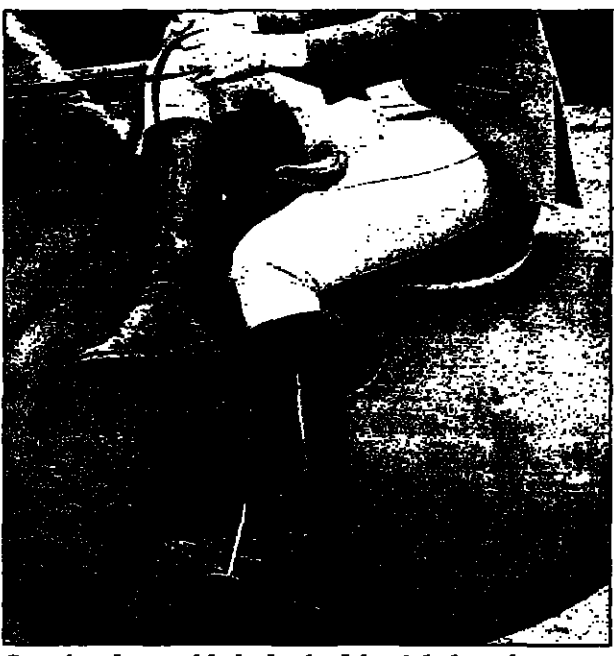
Ms Dawson in costume

right leg and right shoulder into their correct positions at the same time for more than a few strides; the side-saddle equivalent of patting your head and rubbing your tummy simultaneously.

Gradually I gained confidence and felt more aware of what my seat and shoulders were doing, even (temporarily) eliminating the droop in the right shoulder, a universal fault among beginners — which slows the rider sideways and off balance. By squeezing with the left leg and tapping Harry's flank with the long cane carried in the right hand to give the "aids" normally transmitted by the right leg, I eased him into a gentle canter which was far more comfortable than the trot.

We negotiated the corners safely, and I was thrilled to discover — to grip hard with my right knee round the upper curved peg at the front of the saddle, known as the "fixed head" — really did work.

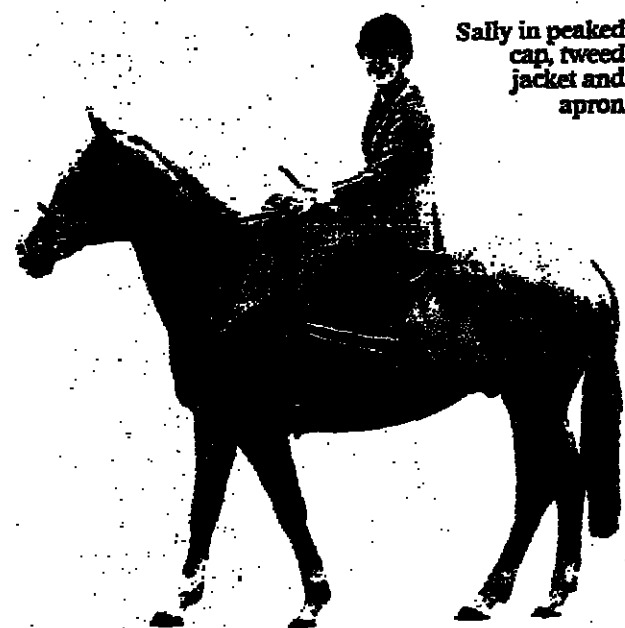
Watching Clarissa in action was an inspiration. She and her handsome grey gelding Buttons, on whom she has twice won the National Side-Saddle Rider of the Year, moved as if moulded together with almost imperceptible transitions between the different paces, and even made jumping look easy. Clarissa folding gracefully forward from the hips while Buttons stretched out over the spreads. Although most pupils take their lessons wearing jodhpurs



Pressing down with the back of the right knee is a must

enjoyed it enormously despite a few falls. As you get older you have to build up the muscles slowly until you get fit enough to do a whole day side-saddle. "Feeling feeble in comparison. I tried to ignore my aching right knee and booked a series of lessons aboard

Harry with (very) basic jumps next on the agenda. "Don't worry," Clarissa encouraged. "It's virtually impossible to come off 'out of the front door' because of the way the saddle's designed, so the only way you can fall off is backwards." Can't wait.



Sally in peaked cap, tweed jacket and apron

All you need to know to get started

WAYS AND MEANS: Women have been riding side-saddle for centuries, and the sport is now enjoying a renaissance with hundreds of riders, aged from 10 to 80. Children under ten are not encouraged to try side-saddle because of the strain put on the spine by the need to sit facing squarely forwards with the right leg slung across the body. The Side-Saddle Association, which was founded 22 years ago, now boasts over 1,200 members, many of whom compete at a variety of levels, while several hundred other women also ride regularly for pleasure.

TAKING UP SIDE-SADDLE: It is strongly recommended that only women with at least basic experience of riding astride take up side-saddle as most of the same principles apply. Although it is easier for the young and slender to improve rapidly and look most elegant when turn-out is judged, even the older, less sylph-like riders can achieve a high standard and get a lot of pleasure from it, whether hacking, hunting in traditional style or competing. Side-saddle is no longer the sole preserve of the rich, and women from all walks of life are taking it up, attracted by its idiosyncratic blend of glamour and tradition.

Virtually no men ride side-saddle, although Roger Philpot, the owner of Pittern Hill and a well-known side-saddle trainer is an exception, often performing a routine as a comic turn or to demonstrate technique to his pupils.

COST: Although side-saddle is not a cheap sport, mainly because suitable saddles are

hard (and expensive) to come by, many newcomers start by trying it aboard well-schooled riding-school horses and wearing basic riding kit of jodhpurs, boots and shirt, only investing in the full regalia when they are competing seriously.

LESSONS: These vary in price depending on the area and level of expertise of your instructor. Pittern Hill Riding School offers a half-hour private lesson for £15 and an hour-long group session for the same price, outstanding value as many Home Counties establishments charge nearly double.

SADDLES: a dilapidated hunting saddle will probably cost around £350 to £400 but an old show-quality one could be nearer £1,000. These come complete with single stirrup and safety fitting to ensure a rapid release in case of a fall and the two upholstered pom-poms to keep the legs in place, the fixed head and the leaping head. The new saddles cost from £2,000 but are generally considered too lightweight to survive more than a couple of years.

CLOTHING: the price varies according to quality, but an average habit of fitted jacket and apron, a skirt fuller on the left side and with an elastic loop fitted round the foot to stop the skirt blowing up costs from £350. A silk top hat costs around £200 and a competition quality bowler about £150; the checked waistcoat around £40; cream stock £15; breeches from £40 and black boots from £80 although many riders buy them second-hand for less.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Look at this trump layout:

Q 10 9 J 4 5 2
A K 8 7 6 3

You may judge as West that it is vital for you to play trumps. In that case, as any good player knows, the correct card to play is the queen. That stops one ruff at the expense of a trump trick, but if declarer decides to use the jack to ruff you get your trick back. This is the balance sheet:

- 1) West doesn't play trumps at all. Declarer gets two ruffs, West gets one trump trick, so in all declarer gets seven trump tricks.
- 2) West plays a low trump. Declarer puts on the jack. He gets one ruff, West doesn't get a trump trick, so again declarer makes seven tricks in trumps.
- 3) West plays the queen of trumps. If declarer just draws trumps he gets six trump tricks and no ruff. If he takes a ruff with the jack that promotes West's ten, so he only makes five trump tricks in hand plus the ruff, again only six tricks.

Thus the queen is the winning play. Another variant is this layout:

1986 1053 2
A K Q 7 4

If West judges he has to play trumps, the jack is the card. If the declarer takes more than one ruff, West's nine is promoted.

There were mixed fortunes for the two United States teams in the world championship finals in Hammamet, Tunisia. United States I (Marineta Letizia, Lisa Berkowitz, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Mildred Breed, Tobi Sokolow) defeated China by 249-184 IMPs to win the Venice Cup, the women's world championship. In the open final for the Bermuda Bowl, France (Paul Chemia, Michel Perron, Christian Mari, Alain Levy, Frank Multon, Herve Mouillet) defeated the defending champions, United States II, by 528-301 IMPs. The new world transnational Swiss teams championships was won by an Italy/Poland combination, captained by Leandro Burgoy, in the final they crushed a Poland team, captained by Krzysztof Jassien, by 132-40 IMPs. The bronze medal was shared by Gardynik, of Poland, and Hanna, of Canada.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

PULFRICH
a. Facially beautiful
b. Free-running
c. An optical effect

GAINE

- Component of an HE shell
- Prophecy
- A strategic objective

- A bacterial disease in chicks
 - Belonging to a rowing eight
 - A large belfry
- ZEUGMA**
a. The mother of Jupiter
b. Netherlands inland marina
c. A figure of speech

Answers on page 43

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kinsman wins

International master Andrew Kinsman from Brighton won a convincing first prize in the international tournament at Wrexham. In so doing, he also achieved his first norm for the grandmaster title. Kinsman went through the tournament undefeated, while second place, also undefeated, was taken by Mark Taimanov, the veteran Russian grandmaster.

White: Andrew Kinsman
Black: Gary Lane
Owens Corning, Wrexham
October 1997

Queen's Gambit Accepted

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1 d4 | d5 |
| 2 Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 3 c4 | cxc4 |
| 4 Nc3 | e6 |
| 5 Qa4+ | Nb7 |
| 6 e4 | c5 |
| 7 d5 | exd5 |
| 8 e5 | d4 |
| 9 exd6 | cxg6 |
| 10 Bxc4 | g6 |
| 11 0-0 | Bg7 |
| 12 Re1+ | Kf8 |
| 13 Bf4 | Ne5 |
| 14 Rad1 | Qc7 |

Wrexham final cross-table

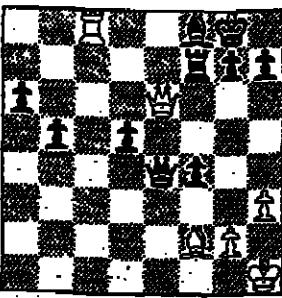
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
Kinsman	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Taimanov	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6 1/2
Devies	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6 1/2
Van der Doel	1/2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Jansa	0	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Donaldson	1/2	0	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4 1/2
Lane	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Nielsen	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Bellin	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2 1/2
Sahu	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2 1/2

In the above table, 1 represents a win, 1/2 a draw and 0 a loss

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Glek — Lasarev, San Giorgio 1997. In this position White played 1 Rxd8+ and Black resigned, presumably expecting to be mated after 1... Kxd8 2 Bc5+ Kg8 3 Qc8+. What did he overlook?

Solution on page 43



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Trial with anonymous jury is valid

Regina v Comerford
(Thomas)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Butterfield (Judgment October 28)

There was no objection to the withholding of jurors' names if it was thought desirable to do so in order to prevent a jury being "bribed", provided that the defendant's right of challenge was preserved.

Where, therefore, jurors were called to the jury box by numbers allocated to them by the court clerk, rather than by name, but without any infringement of the defendant's right of challenge, he suffered no violation of his common law or statutory rights.

Wherever possible applications by the Crown for jury protection should take place in the presence of the defence and be supported by reasons and by evidence which was open to cross-examination.

Any departure from that course should be fully considered and only sanctioned where the judge was satisfied that it was necessary and would not render the trial process other than completely fair to the defendant.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Thomas Comerford against his conviction of attempting to possess cocaine with intent to supply following trial at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court by Judge Blackwell, QC and a jury.

On the morning following the commencement of the defendant's trial, the Crown made a public interest immunity application to the trial judge in chambers in the presence only of prosecuting counsel and two senior Customs and Excise officials. The judge heard sworn evidence from one of the officials and there was a discussion with counsel.

On the resumption of the trial the judge, without any prior indication to the defence, discharged the jury without giving reasons for doing so; the Crown then applied, in the presence of the defence, for police protection for the fresh jury, giving no reasons and calling no evidence in support.

The defence opposed the application, but the judge directed that protection be given at the highest level. He further ruled that the jurors should be called by numbers, which were allocated to each of them by the court clerk. They were then so called, their names not being announced in open court. No challenges were made and the jury was sworn.

Subsequently the judge gave written reasons for his decisions which were read by the Court of Appeal on the defendant's appeal.

Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC and Mr Peter Loder, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant; Mr Simon Draycott for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that, although intimidation or bribery of jurors was fortunately unusual, cases did arise where a defendant or his friends or associates or others with an interest in the outcome of the trial sought to influence the jury's verdict by unlawful means. Such activities had earned the colloquial description of "jury nobbling".

Where an attempt to nobble a jury was apprehended, the response which the courts had adopted was to afford individual jurors such level of protection as was judged necessary to protect them against any unlawful approach or communication, whether intimidatory or corrupt.

But that carried its own dangers. Despite judicial warnings that it was not to cause jurors to draw any inference adverse to the defendant, he might fear that some jurors might be tempted to view with disfavour an accused person

whose friends or associates were themselves thought likely to act in criminal way.

Alternatively, a juror who appreciated that protection had been given for his own safety might be inclined to acquit to reduce any risk of personal mischief to himself.

Those dangers would deter a judge from ordering high level protection unless convinced that there was otherwise a real and present danger of nobbling.

Application for protection would be made by the prosecutor whenever possible in the presence of the defence with reasons and evidence, open to cross-examination, in support.

That represented an ideal which could not always be achieved in practice. But any departure from the ideal had to be fully considered and should not be sanctioned unless the trial judge was satisfied that it was necessary and would not render the trial process other than completely fair to the defendant.

It was axiomatic that no matter what the exigencies of any case no procedural application should be granted which might in any way jeopardise the fairness of the outcome of the trial. That consideration was paramount: if a defendant could not be fairly tried, he was not to be tried at all.

The court's practice was to warn the jury clearly, as was done in the present case, that they were not in any way to hold it against the defendant that protective measures had been taken.

As in any other case, they had to decide the case on the evidence they heard in court and nothing else: there was no reason to doubt that the jury here paid proper attention to the warning given.

It was plainly highly desirable that all possible information should be disclosed to the defence and that all exchanges with the judge should so far as possible take place openly in the presence of the defence. Any ex parte communication between the Crown and the trial judge gave rise to a feeling of unease and should be kept to a minimum.

Here, however, the trial judge was presented with apparently reliable sworn evidence which obliged him to discharge the first jury and fully justified his decision to order the protection of the fresh jury.

The defence would surely have inferred that the first jury were thought likely to have been nobbled, even if they knew nothing of the grounds for such belief.

On the question whether the omission to name the jurors in open court rendered the trial a nullity his Lordship referred to the standard procedure that had for many years been followed when empanelling a jury: that the clerk of the court invited members of the jury in waiting to answer to their names and then called out the name of each juror selected by ballot before explaining that any challenge was to be made after the names of the selected jurors had been called.

Plainly the procedure here was a departure from that standard practice, but that of itself did not render the trial a nullity unless it violated the legal right of the defendant or made the proceedings unfair to him.

The court rejected the submission that section 12(3) of the Juries Act 1974 contained a mandatory requirement that names be called.

No doubt the draftsman assumed that the ordinary practice would be followed. But the purpose of section 12(3) was to define the time at which the challenge was to be made rather than to require the public announcement of jurors' names. While accepting that section 12(6) preserved a defendant's right to challenge the array the court could not see that

that right was in any way infringed.

An effective challenge to the array would require evidence of the facilities guaranteed by section 5(2) which entitled a defendant to reasonable facilities for inspecting the panel from which the jurors who tried him were or would be drawn.

Here no irregularity was involved. If the defendant had been denied an effective opportunity to exercise his right of challenge he would be entitled to have his conviction quashed and a venire de novo ordered.

It was however clear that the trial judge intended to preserve the defendant's right of challenge. It might be that he was told that no such right would be exercised; but even if he were not, it was not the defendant's contention that any right of challenge would have been exercised had the names of the jurors been called aloud in open court.

Had the defendant's decision to exercise his right of challenge depended on the trial judge directing the names of the jurors he could have exercised his right to ascertain the names of all the jurors forming the relevant panel and without doubt the judge would have been willing to hear and if necessary rule on any challenge made after inspecting the names of the panel.

There had been no violation of the defendant's common law or statutory rights.

It was highly desirable that in normal circumstances the usual procedure for empanelling a jury should be followed.

But if, to thwart the nefarious designs of those suspected of seeking to nobble a jury, it was reasonably thought to be desirable to withhold jurors' names, there was no objection to that course provided the defendant's right of challenge was preserved.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the Crown case, which as at the first trial again rested solely on the DNA evidence that the profile from the vaginal swab matched that of the defendant's blood sample and reviewed the statistical evidence of that match.

That was not to say that the presence or absence of prejudice to the defendant was irrelevant. Its presence would always be highly material. Where the delay had occasioned significant prejudice, it would almost always be right to dismiss the inquiry and discharge the cross-undertaking. But the greater the delay, the less the need to establish prejudice; and the court should be hesitant to discharge the cross-undertaking and dismiss the inquiry where there had been excessive and prolonged delay even though it could not be shown to have occasioned any prejudice to the other party.

Accordingly, his Lordship was of the opinion that the judge was in error in concluding that the Attorney-General's inability to demonstrate that Barratt's delays had occasioned him prejudice or made a fair trial of the inquiry impossible was fatal to his application.

The court therefore was free to exercise its discretion which could be exercised in favour of allowing the inquiry to proceed.

Mr Brian Neill delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Field Cunningham & Co, Manchester.

Evidence of theorem recipe for confusion

Regina v Adams (No 2)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Butterfield (Judgment October 16)

While there could be no possible objection to the prosecution presenting DNA evidence based as it was on statistical data, reliance on evidence of the Bayes Theorem in relation to non-scientific evidence was a recipe for confusion, misunderstanding and misjudgment. Accordingly, in such cases, in the absence of special reasons, Bayesian evidence should not be admitted.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by Denis Adams against his conviction of rape following a retrial at the Central Criminal Court before Judge Pownall, QC, and a jury.

In January 1994 Adams had been convicted of rape following a trial in which the prosecution case had rested entirely on expert evidence in relation to the DNA sample obtained from semen on a high vaginal swab taken from the complainant.

In April 1996 the Court of Appeal had quashed the conviction on the ground that the trial judge directed the jury on the Bayes Theorem evidence, introduced by the defence, had left them without adequate guidance as to how to evaluate the DNA evidence in the light of the non-DNA evidence and had ordered a retrial (The Times May 9, 1996; [1996] 2 Cr App R 467).

Mr Ronald Twiss, QC and Mr Marc Brittain, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Adams; Mr Orlando Pownall and Miss Susan Tapping for the prosecution.

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Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Field Cunningham & Co, Manchester.

the Crown were available for consideration and evaluation by the defence and they had had an opportunity to make such criticisms as they thought fit. All those matters were before the jury and a proper subject for their consideration.

However, there had been a further, and for present purposes important, dimension to Professor Donnelly's evidence. That had related to his explanation and application of the Bayes Theorem to which in the course of the retrial the defence had again invited the jury to pay attention.

That was a method by which non-DNA evidence could be expressed in terms of mathematical probability and so could readily be applied to the DNA figures so as to reduce the probabilities if the jury judged it appropriate.

He had given a long and detailed explanation of how the theorem operated and had introduced the jury in considerable detail to a questionnaire which had been prepared to enable them to make the appropriate calculations. That document bore on it its own instructions for use, which Professor Donnelly amplified to the jury.

In view of that detailed explanation the court rejected Mr Twiss's submission that the judge should have directed the jury fully and not encouraged them to apply their common sense in contradistinction to the Bayesian approach described by Professor Donnelly.

Mr Twiss had also submitted that the Bayesian approach was logically sound and approved by expert opinion. The court would not wish to take issue with that statement so long as it was applied to appropriate subject matter by persons competent to apply it.

There was no reason to doubt, as was stated by a number of highly authoritative experts, that it was a sound and reliable methodological approach in some circumstances. The court had, however, the gravest reservations about its use in jury trials.

Mr Twiss had submitted that the prosecution should not be allowed to adduce statistical evidence regarding the random occurrence ratio of a DNA match unless the defence were allowed to

call appropriate Bayesian evidence to show how such figures could be reduced in giving effect to the probabilities attached to non-scientific, non-DNA evidence.

In the court's view there could be no possible objection in principle to the leading of DNA evidence by the Crown, based as it was on statistical data, the data and the deductions drawn from it being available for the defence to criticise and challenge.

The court referred to the strong criticism of the use of Bayes Theorem evidence in such cases, made by the Court of Appeal on the appeal following the first trial (see *R v Adams* (The Times May 9, 1996; [1996] 2 Cr App R 467, 480-482), and endorsed by the court in *R v Doherty and Adams* ([1997] 1 Cr App R 365, 374).

That was the result of those previous rulings and having had the opportunity of considering the evidence, the court regarded reliance on evidence of that kind in such cases as a recipe for confusion, misunderstanding and misjudgment, possibly among counsel, probably among judges and almost certainly among jurors.

The present case was properly to be approached by the jury along conventional lines. It was for the jury how they set about their task and it was not part of the Court of Appeal's function to prescribe the course which their deliberations should take.

It was the sort of task which juries performed every day of their lives and, consciously or not, on the evidence, as they were sworn to do.

They would not be assisted in their task by reference to a complex approach which they were unlikely to understand fully and even more unlikely to apply accurately, which the court judged to be likely to confuse them and distract them from their consideration of the real questions on which they should seek to reach a unanimous conclusion.

The court was clearly of opinion that in cases such as the present, lacking special features absent here, expert evidence should not be admitted to induce jurors to attach mathematical values to probabilities arising from non-scientific evidence adduced at the trial.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, St Albans.

Power to seek removal of liquidator

In re Sutton (Removal of liquidator)

The court's jurisdiction to remove a liquidator was not dependent on the application for his exercise being made by the liquidator concerned, or by a creditor in the insolvency. A partner in the liquidator's firm had locus standi, where that firm had day-to-day conduct of the insolvency matters in question.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in the Chancery Division in a reserved judgment on October 17, granting the application of, inter alia, Mr Steven Quinn, a partner

in the respondent's firm, Baker Tilley, who held joint appointments in respect of a number of corporate insolvencies - with the respondent, Mr Alan Sutton, for orders removing Mr Sutton as liquidator, administrator, trustee or supervisor of all of the insolvency matters for which he was solely or jointly responsible and replacing him where necessary.

HIS LORDSHIP went on to consider whether in the light of *In re Sankar Furniture Ltd*, ex parte Harding ([1995] 2 BCLC 554), it was appropriate for the court to exercise its jurisdiction on the ground that the respondent had

ceased to become a partner in the firm, and no longer had access to the relevant files or necessary resources to enable him easily to carry out his office, or whether that was properly a matter for the creditors.

His Lordship concluded that since that state of affairs made it impractical for the respondent to carry out his duties, his case was clearly distinguishable from that of Mr Harding in *Sankar*, and the orders sought would be granted to avoid calling creditors' meetings in the many insolvency matters and the expenditure of thousands of pounds.

Scots Law Report November 3 1997 Inner House

Assessing pupil capacity of school

King v East Ayrshire Council
Before the Lord President (Lord Rodger of Earlsferry), Lord Sutherland and Lord Macdonald (Judgment July 17)

When considering whether to refer a proposed school closure to the secretary of state pursuant to section 22B of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, an education authority was not obliged to approach the interpretation of the term "pupil capacity" in the Education (Publication and Discharge) (Scotland) Regulations (SI 1981 No 1538), as amended by (SI 1987 No 2076) and (SI 1988 No 107), by reference to a contemporary assessment of the number of pupils which a school could take at the particular time the assessment was made.

Where a court was satisfied that an administrative body had erred in law in reaching its decision, the court was not bound to set aside that decision.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing a reclaiming motion by Alyson Catherine King against a decision by the Lady Ordinary dismissing the council's application for judicial review of a decision by East Ayrshire Council to discontinue St Paul's Primary School in Ayrshire.

Miss Jacqueline Williamson for the petitioner; Mr Richard Keen, QC and Mr Iain Miller for the council.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that on June 28, 1996 the council closed St Paul's Primary School in Hurlford. The mother of two children at the school sought judicial review of that decision.

The issue was whether, once it had adopted the proposal to discontinue St Paul's, the council had been obliged to refer the proposal to the secretary of state for his consent under section 22B of the 1980 Act, as inserted.

that pupil capacity regard shall be had to - (i) the assessment of capacity on which the education authority have based their proposal; (ii) the maximum number of pupils in attendance at the school in any one year in the 10 years preceding the proposal; and (iii) the curriculum of the school.

The approach which the council applied to the calculation of the pupil capacity of St Paul's derived from a circular which distinguished between "planning capacity" and "working capacity".

Planning capacity was based on the number of rooms in the school, the number of pupils who could be accommodated in the rooms and the maximum permissible class size. Working capacity was obtained by adjusting the planning capacity to take account of organisational needs of the school and that could therefore vary from session to session.

In accordance with the circular, the respondents had used the planning capacity to calculate the pupil capacity of St Paul's for the purposes of the 80 per cent rule.

There were four classrooms. The planning capacity method brought out a figure for the pupil capacity of 172. The petitioner argued that the council should have used the working capacity. If it had done so, the equivalent figure would have been 100 pupils.

The council accepted that with the number of teachers who were teaching in the school at the relevant date, the working capacity was 100 since there were four composite classes and the maximum permitted number of pupils in a composite class taught by one teacher was 25. The number of pupils attending the school was 81.

The petitioner's argument was that if the working capacity figure had been used, then the number of pupils in attendance at the time would have exceeded 80 per cent of the pupil capacity of the school.

What the education authority was required to do was to take account of the pupil capacity of the school. It was not given any instructions as to how it was to go about that other than being told that it had to consider the three factors, and it was free to reject all or any of them or to give whatever weight it thought appropriate to all or any of them.

His Lordship found that the fatal objection to the petitioner's approach came with the second factor to which the education authority was to have regard. That was the maximum number of pupils in attendance at the school in any one year in the 10 years preceding the proposal.

It was impossible to see how any attendance figure for the previous 10 years could form part of the calculation of the school's working capacity.

The historic attendance figure was irrelevant to the calculation of working capacity which was designed to produce, not a historic picture, but rather a contemporary assessment of the number of pupils which a school could take at the particular time to which the assessment related.

Parliament had therefore required education authorities to have regard to a matter which would be irrelevant to a school's working capacity. The fact that in calculating the pupil capacity of a school, the authority required to have regard to its historic attendance figures showed conclusively that a school's "pupil capacity" for those purposes was not synonymous with its working capacity.

Interpretation of factor (ii)
His Lordship said that another issue arose into focus during the course of the hearing. It formed no part of the averments in the petition for judicial review. Nor was it to be found in the petitioner's grounds of appeal.

Whether because of the urgency with which the amendment to the 1981 Regulations was effected or because of some other factor, paragraph (ii) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations was not a model of clarity. The most problematic aspect was factor (ii).

should do and easy to see why it should have regard to the historic attendance figures in calculating the number of pupils in attendance.

Because of that, there was a risk that the terms of the Schedule would be misapplied. There were signs that that had happened in the present case.

The council accepted that, if it had used the historic attendance figure in for the purpose of calculating the number of pupils in attendance at the school, it had failed to have regard to one of the relevant matters in calculating the pupil capacity of the school.

The petitioner submitted in her reply that since the council had erred in that respect the court should reduce the decision not to refer the proposal to the secretary of state and remit the matter to the council to consider afresh whether the proposal required to be referred to the secretary of state.

His Lordship said that even where a court was satisfied that an administrative body had erred in law in reaching its decision, the court was not bound to reduce that decision.

As Lord Halisham had pointed out in *London and Clydesdale Estates Ltd v Aberdeen District Council* ([1990] 1 WLR 182) the jurisdiction to grant decree of reduction of administrative decisions was inherently discretionary.

Here the petitioner asked the court to reduce the council's decision on a basis which would have been open to her from the outset, but which she did not advance then, preferring instead to use a different argument to attack its position.

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CHANGING TIMES



DANKA BUSINESS SYSTEMS PLC

RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1997

Danka Business Systems PLC ("Danka" or "the Group") is pleased to announce its half year and second quarter results to 30th September 1997.

Financial Results

Turnover in the half year increased 91% to a record £1.02 billion compared to £534.4 million last year, while operating profits increased 45% to £62.5 million (1996: £43.3 million). Pre-tax profits rose 21% to £43.0 million from £35.6 million in the same period last year. After tax, at an effective rate of 29.0% for the 1997 interim, earnings per share increased 19% to 13.5p from 11.3p a year ago. Turnover in the second quarter increased 87% to £506.9 million from last year's £270.7 million, while operating profits rose 40% to a record £31.5 million from £22.5 million last year. Pre-tax profits for the second quarter rose 23% to a record £22.2 million (1996: £18.1 million), while earnings per share increased 22% to 6.9p from 5.7p a year ago. The Group's results for the second quarter and half year to 30th September 1997 were adversely affected by the strength of the UK pound. Had the value of the UK pound remained unchanged from a year ago, the Group's profit after-tax for the half year would have been £32.3 million or 14.2p per share.

The second quarter and half year results for 30th September 1996 are before an exceptional item of £1.3 million that the Group realised for the acquisition of the Lafotec Group in late 1995.

Operations

The Group's operating profit margins continue to improve due to certain cost savings Danka is beginning to realise as the integration of the businesses progresses. Since 31st December 1996, the date of the Office Imaging acquisition, the Group has reduced its workforce by over 6% and continues to refine the efficiencies of its operations. Danka Services International, the Group's outsourcing business, exceeded expectations during the second quarter and will continue to play an important role in the future, by helping companies migrate from an analogue environment to a digital, integrated office solution.

Recurring operating costs as a percentage of turnover have decreased significantly compared to the same period a year ago. The decline is due to several factors within the Group's operations, including the cost savings from the integration as well as the dynamics of the new organisation. The addition of high-volume equipment sales and service, and the growth in outsourcing, has positively impacted the Group on a consolidated basis. The operating costs required to support the high-volume and outsourcing operations are lower than Danka's traditional business.

Balance Sheet and Financing

In September, the Group received a cash refund from Eastman Kodak for the purchase price adjustment required under the Asset Purchase Agreement. As a result of this additional cash flow and the Group's strong operating cash flow during the second quarter, Danka was able to reduce the utilised debt under its credit agreement by over £87 million, to a balance at 30th September 1997 of approximately £465 million.

Integration of Office Products and Office Imaging

The Group took an important step last month when it announced the realignment and integration of its management structure with key individuals from both sides of the organisation. On a geographic basis, the organisation was split into two regions: Danka Americas and Danka International. These geographic regions are supported by Danka's areas of specialisation, which operate worldwide, including Operational Excellence, Finance & Planning and Markets & Strategy. Dan Doyle, Chief Executive, commented on the changes, "The implementation of the new organisational structure was a critical step in the integration process. This new structure will benefit Danka's sales and service quality, as well as its competitive position, by offering the customer a seamless global organisation with one face and one vision worldwide."

Overall, the Group is pleased with the progress it is making with the integration and the benefits it will yield, yet there remains some uncertainty surrounding the timing at which the benefits will arise. As Danka has progressed with the integration, the Group has developed more clarity on the associated costs. The Group currently estimates that the costs will be approximately £2.3 million more in each of the next two quarters due to the acceleration of its move to a single IT system. However, the Group remains optimistic that the timing of the expected benefits will offset these costs over the next two quarters. The Group also expects to realise additional benefits from these increased investments in fiscal 1999.

The largest undertaking of the integration is the development of a global IT infrastructure and the improvement of Danka's operational processes. To support these initiatives, the Group has been making significant investments in its information technology and operations infrastructures, including the use of various independent computer and process improvement consulting groups. The Group believes that these investments are an important element in successfully integrating the businesses and in providing a solid foundation for growth in the future. Danka's goal is to link the sales, service, billing and finance efforts electronically, which will allow the Group to better serve its customers as well as improve its employee communication and support.

Dividend

As a result of Danka's continued achievements, the Directors are recommending the payment of an interim dividend of 1.56p per Ordinary share (net), 20% higher than last year. The dividend will be payable on 21st January 1998 to shareholders whose names are shown on the Register on 12th December 1997. This represents the tenth consecutive year that Danka has increased its dividend.

Comments

Dan Doyle commented on the quarter, "We are extremely pleased with the Group's performance and the dedication of our employees during the second quarter. In addition to strong revenue growth and continued improvement in operating margins, it was a quarter of organisational change for Danka. We took an important step in the integration of the Office Products and Office Imaging divisions by realigning the management and organisational structure in September. Although there remains a lot to accomplish, by integrating the sales and service networks of the Office Products and Office Imaging divisions, Danka will be able to better serve its customers with one face and one vision worldwide."

Group Profit and Loss Account For the Periods Ended 30th September 1997

Note	Second quarter ended 30th September		Six months ended 30th September		Year ended 31st March 1997 (Audited)
	1997 £'000 (Unaudited)	1996 £'000 (Unaudited)	1997 £'000 (Unaudited)	1996 £'000 (Unaudited)	1997 £'000 (Audited)
Turnover	506,930	270,677	1,022,301	534,392	1,323,995
Cost of sales	(317,465)	(162,508)	(638,442)	(321,854)	(807,640)
Gross profit	189,465	108,169	383,859	212,538	516,355
Operating costs - Recurring	(150,262)	(85,687)	(305,975)	(169,275)	(411,872)
- Exceptional	-	(1,319)	-	(1,319)	(45,630)
- Research and development costs	(7,695)	-	(15,339)	-	(7,877)
	(157,957)	(87,006)	(321,314)	(170,594)	(465,379)
Operating profit	31,508	21,163	62,545	41,944	50,976
Net interest payable	(9,288)	(4,407)	(19,536)	(7,709)	(22,000)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	22,220	16,756	43,009	34,235	28,976
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(6,444)	(4,859)	(12,473)	(9,928)	(8,405)
Profit for the period	15,776	11,897	30,536	24,307	20,571
Dividends paid and proposed	(3,546)	(2,939)	(3,546)	(2,939)	(5,965)
Retained profit for the financial period	12,230	8,958	26,990	21,368	14,606
Earnings per share					
Basic (after exceptional items)	6.9p	5.3p	13.5p	10.9p	9.1p
Adjustment for exceptional items	-	0.4p	-	0.4p	17.0p
Adjusted earnings per share	6.9p	5.7p	13.5p	11.3p	26.1p
Dividends per share	1.56p	1.30p	1.56p	1.30p	2.60p
Average exchange rate £1 =	\$1.625	\$1.554	\$1.630	\$1.539	\$1.587

Group Balance Sheet at 30th September 1997

	30th September 1997 £'000 (Unaudited)	31st March 1997 £'000 (Audited)
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	239,549	242,484
Investment	234	1,420
	239,783	243,904
Current assets		
Stocks	338,286	297,259
Debtors	498,534	566,559
Investments	-	1,907
Cash at bank and in hand	28,486	43,007
	865,306	908,732
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Bank and other loans	(49,730)	(20,624)
Other creditors	(438,280)	(462,107)
Net current assets	377,296	426,001
Total assets less current liabilities	617,079	669,905
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Convertible subordinated loan notes	(121,675)	(118,859)
Bank and other loans	(428,589)	(518,831)
Other creditors	(16,126)	(14,618)
	(566,390)	(652,308)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(13,487)	(10,186)
Net assets	37,202	7,411
Capital and reserves		
Called up share capital	2,841	2,835
Share premium account	188,754	187,879
Other reserves	(332,441)	(334,084)
Profit and loss account	178,048	150,781
Shareholders' funds/equity	37,202	7,411
Closing exchange rate £1 =	\$1.612	\$1.645

Note: Debtors and other creditors due within one year in the March 1997 Balance Sheet have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Notes:

1 The financial information for the periods ended 30th September 1997 and 30th September 1996 is unaudited and does not constitute full accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The financial information for the year ended 31st March 1997 has been extracted from the full accounts for that year, which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The full accounts for that year have been given an unqualified audit report, which did not contain a statement under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

2 Analysis of turnover and gross profit

	Second quarter ended 30th Sept		Six months ended 30th Sept		Year ended 31st March 1997 (Audited)
	1997 £'000 (Unaudited)	1996 £'000 (Unaudited)	1997 £'000 (Unaudited)	1996 £'000 (Unaudited)	1997 £'000 (Audited)
Turnover					
Retail equipment sales	146,644	99,967	297,824	198,325	440,479
Retail supplies, maintenance and rental sales	322,113	135,414	647,523	263,318	731,943
Wholesale sales	38,173	35,296	76,954	72,749	151,573
	506,930	270,677	1,022,301	534,392	1,323,995
Gross profit					
Retail equipment sales	51,329	38,696	104,865	76,193	164,855
Retail supplies, maintenance and rental sales	130,682	63,293	264,086	123,476	323,734
Wholesale sales	7,454	6,180	14,908	12,869	27,766
	189,465	108,169	383,859	212,538	516,355

3 The calculations of the earnings per share are based on the profit on ordinary activities after taxation and the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period. In order to provide a trend measure of underlying performance, Group profit on ordinary activities after taxation has been adjusted to exclude exceptional items and earnings per share recalculated, as detailed below:

	Second quarter ended 30th Sept		Six months ended 30th Sept		Year ended 31st March 1997 (Audited)
	1997 £'000	1996 pence per share	1997 £'000	1996 pence per share	1997 pence per share
Basic earnings	15,776	6.9	30,536	13.5	20,571
Exceptional charges arising in respect of:					
Restructuring of operations	-	-	-	-	37,735
Early repayment of debt	-	-	-	-	16.8
Adjusted earnings	15,776	6.9	30,536	13.5	58,674
Average number of ordinary shares in issue	227,882,577		226,065,182		225,070,997

4 Copies of this report will be available from the Company's registered office at 33 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0DE.

MAM takes bull market by the horns

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Blacks Leisure, Pwong, Finis: Associated British Foods, Strategem, Economic Statistics, October provisional MO money supply.

TOMORROW

Interim: Betterware, BP (q3), Celsis Int, Dairy Crest Group, Thomas Water, Powerscreen Int, Northumbria Fine Foods, Westbury, Securix Trust, Scotland, Marks & Spencer, Willis Corroon, Economic Statistics, Halifax October house price survey, September consumer credit, October official reserves.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: BA, Hawterson, ScottishPower, Shanks & McEwan, Whitbread, Finis: Gardner Group, Economic Statistics, September industrial output, Bank of England monetary policy committee meeting.

THURSDAY

Interim: Boots, Elen, Mercury Asset Management, Royal Dutch Petroleum (q3), Royal & Sun Alliance (q3), Shell Transport (q3), Undervalued Assets Trust, Finis: MMT Computing, Kwik Save, J Smart Contractors, Economic Statistics, September new construction orders, Bank interest rate decision.

FRIDAY

Interim: Cadastria, Unilever (q3), Wyndham Press.

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Golden Rose Communications. The Observer: Buy British Steel, Pilkington. The Sunday Times: Buy Boots, Whitbread, Clubhaus, Cranswick. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Edge Properties, Racal.

COMPANIES

MAM: The rollercoaster performance of world stock markets should be put into perspective this week when Mercury Asset Management, Britain's biggest independent fund manager, unveils half-year figures on Thursday.

Of course, top fund managers like Carol Galley can achieve results in bear markets as well as bull markets.

These figures cover the best months of the bull market and that fact should be clearly reflected in pre-tax profits of almost £90 million compared with £51.5 million for the same period last year. Earnings per share should also be up from 30.9p to 33.5p.

Investment markets were buoyant in the six months to September, posting double-digit returns in most cases and adding about 16 per cent to Mercury's funds under management since the end of March. A lot now depends on Mercury's ability to control rising costs in the second half. That said, there is scope for a 10 per cent increase in the payout to 11p.

MARKS & SPENCER: Half-year figures tomorrow are likely to reveal the scars left by the bombing of the Arndale centre in Manchester in June last year. It is estimated by NatWest Markets, the broker, to have cost the group 1.1 per cent of sales progress in the first half.

NatWest is looking for pre-tax profits of £465 million (£431.5 million), while earnings per share should grow 11 per cent from 10.4p to 11.5p. Gross margins are likely to

remain under pressure and it seems unlikely that sales growth of about 8.4 per cent will have underpinned cost increases. The dividend is set to rise 12 per cent to 3.7p.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: A sharp drop in profits is forecast when "the world's favourite airline" unveils half-year numbers on Wednesday. A strong pound and the effects of industrial action by cabin staff will leave their mark. Profits at the pre-tax level for the second quarter are set to more than halve to £150 million. Industrial action will have cost £125 million with most of it affecting the second quarter.

Profits for the first six months will be down from £459 million to £273 million after a drop in both passenger numbers and load factors caused by the strike. Some recovery is expected in the second half. The dividend rises 12 per cent to 4.75p.

BOOTS: Brokers will have a chance to assess what sort of impact the introduction of the Advantage Card has had on sales when the retailer unveils half-year numbers on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £254 million, up 6 per cent on the £239 million achieved in the corresponding period. Earnings per share will have been boosted by the lower tax charge and the reduction in the number of shares in issue. They should come in at 19.4p, a rise of 13 per cent. The payout will be up 10 per cent from 6.2p to 6.8p.

BP: The oil group's strong run



Carol Galley, of MAM, will report profits that pre-date last week's rollercoaster markets

appears to be at an end — for the time being at least. British Petroleum's third-quarter numbers tomorrow will show net income up 3 per cent at £670 million on the corresponding period last year, but down on the strong £740 million achieved in the second quarter of this year. A quarterly payout of 5.5p is scheduled,

up 10 per cent on the 5p paid last time.

SHELL: Third-quarter numbers on Thursday are expected to reveal further progress at Shell Transport & Trading despite a weaker oil price and the impact of currency devaluations in the Far East. Net income is expected to grow 5

per cent to £1.17 billion (£1.1 billion), helped by a solid performance from downstream activities and cost reductions. The final figure is struck before a £150 million charge relating to currency factors.

UNILEVER: Signs of economic revival in Europe should help to offset the im-

pact of higher restructuring charges of about £120 million. Even so, the going remains difficult, with pre-tax profits set to show a small improvement when third-quarter numbers are published on Friday. They are expected to come in at about £825 million (£814 million). Earnings are likely to show a decline of 10 per cent to 6p. A recovery in ice cream sales should produce a profit of £33 million, with further benefits coming from rationalisation moves. The net dividend is likely to see a marginal increase of about 4 per cent to 2.8p.

ABF: The £630 million sale of Irish food operations by Associated British Foods this year has returned the focus to the group's future plans. It has £1.5 billion cash and could make some useful acquisitions. Full-year figures today are likely to reveal the first signs of a slowdown in growth. Pre-tax profits are expected to show a downturn from £429 million to £420 million, with earnings virtually unchanged at 30p. The strong pound and the BSE crisis have caused problems for the group, but the dividend is expected to rise to 10.2p (9.5p).

THAMES WATER: Thames resumes the dividend reporting season for the sector with interim results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £210 million (£188 million). There are unlikely to be any surprises in the group's operating performance, although brokers will be keen to assess the performance of its unregulated businesses. The dividend will rise 10 per cent to 12.35p.

MICHAEL CLARK

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Market watch

ECONOMISTS will remain wary this week of further volatility on world stock markets emanating from the Far East and will be keeping a watchful eye on Latin America, which was suffering nervousness on a Hong Kong scale at the end of last week.

A more routine event will be the Bank of England monetary policy committee on Wednesday and Thursday. It, too, is capable of surprise but most City economists expect interest rates to remain on hold for this month at least. Some analysts expect a quarter point rise by the year end.

October money supply figures, out today, are expected to show a fall in the growth of M0 from 1.0 per cent in September to about 0.7 per cent, a 6.1 per cent year-on-year rise.

Tomorrow the net new consumer credit figures for September are due. About £750 million is expected, a fall from £1 billion during August.

Industrial production data for September are due on Wednesday. They are likely to produce the most market-sensitive announcement after last week's gloomy picture in the CBI manufacturing survey. A drop from annual growth of 1.9 per cent in August to 1.8 per cent is expected.

GEORGE SIVELL

Pressure on for MEPC payout

By CARL MORTISHER

PRESSURE will today increase on MEPC to return funds to shareholders after the surprise £300 million sale of the bulk of its smaller properties fund to GE Capital.

The deal marks another strategy U-turn by the £2 billion property investment group and follows the policy shift in September, when MEPC revealed the planned disposal of US and Australian assets. It gave no hint that the portfolio of smaller properties was up for grabs.

MEPC's exposure to a large number of smaller properties has been criticised by institutions which, fed up with the weak performance of MEPC, encouraged Hammerson into merger talks with the MEPC board earlier this year. The parties failed to agree terms, but in a bid to satisfy his critics James Tuckey, chief executive, changed strategy on overseas properties. Last month MEPC increased its properties fund

investment with the £247 million takeover of PSIT.

Today's disposal to GE Capital will provide MEPC with the immediate funds needed to make a £300 million capital repayment to shareholders. In September MEPC promised a repayment out of the expected £500 million-£600 million from the US and Australian asset sales. However, the company wants to increase its exposure to UK property and will probably attempt to resist demands that it make an early capital repayment.

In its 1996 annual report, MEPC had indicated an intention to slim the smaller properties portfolio from its September 1996 valuation of £285 million to £150 million. The deal with GE Capital will reduce the portfolio further. The addition of the small properties in the PSIT portfolio will still leave MEPC with a fund worth about £100 million.

Financial adviser to join AIM

By PAUL DURMAN

INTER-ALLIANCE, a firm of independent financial advisers headed by Vincent Isaacs, is raising £5 million as part of its preparations to list on the Alternative Investment Market before Christmas with a value of £13.5 million.

Mr Isaacs was the founder of General Portfolio, a life insurer that built up a large direct salesforce in the 1980s before it was taken over by GAN, the state-owned French insurer.

Inter-Alliance plans to assemble a network of 1,500 advisers over the next three years.

BCO Technologies intends to become the first Northern Irish company to list on AIM, raising more than £7.5 million to fund its expansion.

Wren Homes, a property developer based in Sutton, Surrey, hopes to raise £550,000 by joining Oxf, the matched bargain market.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6768 (+0.0428)
German mark 2.8868 (-0.0194)
Exchange index 102.3 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 3123.8 (-192.7)
FTSE 100 4842.3 (-127.9)
New York Dow Jones 7442.08 (-273.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16458.94 (-904.80)

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 38

PULFRICH

(c) The optical effect pointed out by Pulfrich (1858-1927) that when a pendulum in a plane perpendicular to the line of sight is viewed, with one eye covered with a filter, its motion appears to be elliptical.

GAINE

(a) A tube filled with explosive attached under the nosecap of an HE shell to ensure that the detonation of the fuse in the cap will detonate the main explosive content of the shell.

PULLORUM

(a) The specific epithet of *Bacterium Pullorum* describing an acute disease in young chicks, often fatal. It is also known as bacterial white diarrhoea.

ZEUGMA

(c) The application of an adjective or verb to two nouns, though strictly applicable to only one of them. EG, "Kill the boys and the luggage." "With weeping eyes and hearts." "See Pan with flocks, with fruits Pomona crowned." With zeugma, the master word actually fails to make sense with one of its pair. You do not kill luggage; hearts bleed rather than weep; and Pomona's hair would be in a terrible state if she was crowned with flocks. In syllepsis, the master word is grammatically correct, but requires the single word to be understood in a different sense with each of its pair. EG, "Miss Polo went home in a flood of tears and a bath chair." In Greek zeugma means "yoking" and syllepsis means "taking together".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

After 1. Rd6+ Kx8 2. Bc5+ Black can play 2... Re7 3. Bx7+ Kx8 and if 4. Qx4 (there is nothing better) 4... dxc4 Black is better in the endgame!

BRITISH BONDS

Short	Yield	Price	Yield	Price	Yield	Price	Yield	Price
Duration (Yrs)								
SHORTS (under 5 years)								
3.00	115.4	100.0	3.50	115.4	100.0	4.00	115.4	100.0
3.50	115.4	100.0	4.00	115.4	100.0	4.50	115.4	100.0
4.00	115.4	100.0	4.50	115.4	100.0	5.00	115.4	100.0
4.50	115.4	100.0	5.00	115.4	100.0	5.50	115.4	100.0
5.00	115.4	100.0	5.50	115.4	100.0	6.00	115.4	100.0
6.00	115.4	100.0	6.50	115.4	100.0	7.00	115.4	100.0
7.00	115.4	100.0	7.50	115.4	100.0	8.00	115.4	100.0
8.00	115.4	100.0	8.50	115.4	100.0	9.00	115.4	100.0
9.00	115.4	100.0	9.50	115.4	100.0	10.00	115.4	100.0
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)								
5.00	115.4	100.0	5.50	115.4	100.0	6.00	115.4	100.0
5.50	115.4	100.0	6.00	115.4	100.0	6.50	115.4	100.0
6.00	115.4	100.0	6.50	115.4	100.0	7.00	115.4	100.0
6.50	115.4	100.0	7.00	115.4	100.0	7.50	115.4	100.0
7.00	115.4	100.0	7.50	115.4	100.0	8.00	115.4	100.0
7.50	115.4	100.0	8.00	115.4	100.0	8.50	115.4	100.0
8.00	115.4	100.0	8.50	115.4	100.0	9.00	115.4	100.0
8.50	115.4	100.0	9.00	115.4	100.0	9.50	115.4	100.0
9.00	115.4	100.0	9.50	115.4	100.0	10.00	115.4	100.0
LONGS (over 15 years)								
10.00	115.4	100.0	10.50	115.4	100.0	11.00	115.4	100.0
10.50	115.4	100.0	11.00	115.4	100.0	11.50	115.4	100.0
11.00	115.4	100.0	11.50	115.4	100.0	12.00	115.4	100.0
11.50	115.4	100.0	12.00	115.4	100.0	12.50	115.4	100.0
12.00	115.4	100.0	12.50	115.4	100.0	13.00	115.4	100.0
12.50	115.4	100.0	13.00	115.4	100.0	13.50	115.4	100.0
13.00	115.4	100.0	13.50	115.4	100.0	14.00	115.4	100.0
13.50	115.4	100.0	14.00	115.4	100.0	14.50	115.4	100.0
14.00	115.4	100.0	14.50	115.4	100.0	15.00	115.4	100.0



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THE FACTS

Turnover: £2.34 billion
Pre-tax profit: £759 million
Employees: 19,000
Businesses: Transco — the gas pipeline network covering most of the country. Exploration and production interests worldwide.
Brands: British Gas for international business only. UK brand belongs to Centrica.

THE BOARD

Richard Giordano, non-executive chairman. A New York lawyer, he joined British Gas in 1993 as a non-executive director. Became chairman in 1994. He is non-executive deputy chairman of Grand Metropolitan and a non-executive director of Rio Tinto. He was appointed CBE in 1989.
Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman. Responsible for regulatory matters. Appointed to his present role last year after failing to get the chief executive's job. Non-executive director of Halifax plc.
David Varney, chief executive. Joined from Shell. A fellow of the Institute of Personnel and Development. Philip Hampton, finance director. Joined last year from British Steel where he had been finance director.
Stephen Brandon, director for international downstream business. Appointed 1995 from General Electric Company of US.
Frank Chapman, managing director of exploration and production. Joined in 1996 from Shell.
John Wybrew, responsible for strategic planning. Another Shell recruit. Margaret Thatcher's adviser on energy and transport 1984-88.
Non-executive directors: Diane Steele, Birmingham. First woman Director-General of MIS. Joined BG in February 1997.
David Benson. Longest serving non-executive. Non-executive of Kierwork Benson and part of the same Benson family.
Dr John Parker. Chairman of Babcock International. Non-executive at GKN. Appointed February 1997.
Elwyn Ellender. Outgoing chairman of the Treasury. Appointed February 1997.
Keith Maclellan. Retired from Shell in 1991. Appointed 1994.

Not long ago the world was collapsing around British Gas. In an extraordinary show of shareholder rage in 1995, a beleaguered management was virtually held hostage for six hours as investors poured invective on Richard Giordano, the chairman, and Cedric Brown, chief executive. Fat-cat pay in the utilities had erupted as a political flashpoint and Brown, who had seen his pay jump 73 per cent to £475,000, became a sacrificial lamb. Those among the angry thousands who were not incensed over pay were irate over dismal service standards.

Then there was take-or-pay — British Gas's commitment to buy fuel at top rates when the market price had fallen through the floor. It was a financial calamity that threatened to kill the business. Last year British Gas went on to threaten thousands of well-paying customers with disconnection amid huge computer problems. And we should not forget the regulator's pricing plans for the pipeline business that British Gas declared the biggest smash and grab raid in history. Meanwhile, the company was losing its monopoly of household customers in a programme to open areas to rival suppliers that started more than a year ago.

Richard Giordano says: "This was a company with a lot of big problems. The management talent that it had was busy firefighting. The alarms would go off and it would rush off to put one fire out. No sooner was that dealt with than there would be another fire."

Through a series of disasters British Gas had managed to become a figure of fun and hate. In the boardroom, directors were clear that its misfortunes were not laughing matters. David Varney, chief executive of the pipeline and international business half of British Gas, says: "Any one of the problems could have killed the corporation." Giordano: "I was always worried that the service problem would finish us when competition came in."

Service difficulties had been exacerbated by the rapid exodus of staff from British Gas. The business was making more staff redundant than it could cope with. Four years ago British Gas embarked on a big reorganisation that envisaged 25,000 job losses and the transformation of its network to replace 12 regional centres with

CORPORATE PROFILE BG



Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, has clashed with Richard Giordano, top, at the wheel, and Cedric Brown. Mr Brown's namesake, Cedric the pig, became a symbol of protests about fat-cat pay. Since then, David Varney, who runs the pipelines and international business, has taken a more measured approach



one national network. In the end more than 37,000 staff had taken voluntary redundancy and the organisation buckled. There were simply too few people. Hence the fiascos with billing and a dearth of engineers to service homes.

But that is now history. Earlier this year British Gas ceased to exist and we now have new fresh businesses to replace the old stumbling giant. The City has been promised that they are invigorated beings, free from the jinx that seemed to dog British Gas.

In February British Gas split into two in a demerger that had been a year in the making. The profitable pipelines network was put with international exploration and development in a company called BG, while gas supply was placed with the enormous liabilities of take-or-pay in Centrica.

Both companies have tried to cling on to the British Gas

identity. BG trades internationally as British Gas, while in the UK it is known through the pipeline division of Transco. Centrica sends its bills out as British Gas Trading. The result, not surprisingly, has been confusion. The idea of a demerger was first thrown up in 1992

when a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation recommended halving British Gas to reduce its market dominance and to prevent conflicts of interest. The prospect was thrown out by the Government which was keen to press on with competition in the gas industry

and feared surgery to British Gas would delay that process. Two years ago the idea was embraced by British Gas as a means of isolating the crippling take-or-pay obligations. Several months down the line and it seems as though BG has gone some way towards putting the past behind it. Its share price has substantially outperformed the FTSE All-share index and confidence is growing about the international operations. The MMC ruling on Transco is about to be implemented and BG is pushing through more than 2,500 jobs in order to reduce its costs to fit the "tough" demands. But Varney has succeeded in changing the once-vitriolic tone of British Gas to a more measured approach which seems to have won the respect of Ofgas, the regulator.

Whether that will be enough to stave off future swipes at the company by Clare Spottiswoode, head of Ofgas, is

another matter, but the regulator will remain a considerable shadow hanging over long-term development of Transco. Ms Spottiswoode has declared she would like to see Transco stripped down to little more than a head office.

But Varney — who came from Shell — must press on. He is determined that BG counters the criticism levelled at British Gas that it lacked focus. Along with the cost-reduction exercise, BG is busy turning out all sorts of things from its wardrobe. Property disposals and the sale of non-core North Sea assets have been in evidence over the past few months and will continue as Varney gets together more spending power to beef up exploration that has been criticised for being unexciting.

This will prove the most challenging project. BG has committed exploration and development (£87) to being self-financing. E&P is £57 mil-

lion in the black but there are some doubts in the City that a save-and-spend approach is the best way to grow the business. Pierre Jungles, former managing director of E&P last year left to become chief executive at Enterprise Oil after only a year in the job. He moved amid rumours that BG wasn't planning to spend enough as he would have liked.

But shareholders will be less vexed over BG's spending. Although they have seen a dividend cut they have given a ringing endorsement to the company's increased debt levels. Varney has attached the balance sheet, mounting the biggest buy-back in UK corporate history at £1.3 billion as it switched equity for debt. Gearing up the balance sheet had been favoured by analysts and bolsters BG's position as a market favourite. The combined share prices of BG and Centrica came to 345.74p on Friday. Three years ago, British Gas stood at 350p. It will take many years for BG to finally throw out the baggage of British Gas in the popular imagination. But most observers are agreed that the company has made a swift start. They would endorse Varney's intention: "We want to make it clear that this is a different company, and a different management team."

As part of that move, BG is developing a statement of business principles but, at this stage, Integrity Works, an adviser to the company, could award it only seven out of ten for ethical expression. And BG may be a new company, but Crisp Consulting's model shows Giordano, who many believe was the instigator of new highs in British boardroom pay, to be overpaid by almost a third.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression... 7/10
Fat-cat quotient... 7/10
Financial record... 7/10
Share performance... 7/10
Attitude to staff... 6/10
Strength of brand... 8/10
Innovation... 8/10
Annual report... 8/10
City star rating... 8/10
Future prospects... 8/10
Total... 74/100
Ethical policy is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

WH Smith sells its US music chain for £28m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

WH SMITH has taken another step to free management to concentrate on its core business by selling The Wall, its US music chain, for £28 million.

The high street retailer announced plans last month to demerge Waterstones, its chain of bookstores, to try to fend off the advances of Amazon.com, the chain's founder.

The Wall, which has most of its 153 outlets in northeast America, was bought by WH Smith in 1990 for £23 million

(£13.5 million) and broke even on sales of £105 million for the year to May 1997.

The sale of The Wall to Camelot Music, a US music retailer, means analysts will now be focusing on Virgin Our Price, in which WH Smith has a 75 per cent stake.

The remaining 25 per cent is held by Richard Branson, the billionaire entrepreneur and founder of the store. WH Smith may either sell its stake or buy out Mr Branson.

Vickers close to buying GKN's defence business

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

VICKERS, the engineering group that has put Rolls-Royce Motors up for sale, is just weeks away from signing a deal to buy the defence business of its rival GKN.

Analysts say the price is likely to fall between £50 million and £150 million, although it could be at the lower end of the scale because GKN

has a thin order book and the business has only 500 staff. Acquiring the GKN armoured car business would bolster Vickers's move to concentrate on its defence business.

Vickers is part of a consortium bidding for two important defence contracts. GKN is part of a rival consortium chasing the same business. The first order is to supply the British, German and French armies with a multi-role armoured vehicle (MRAP) or battlefield taxi. The other is to provide the US and British armies with Tracer, an armoured vehicle with sensor equipment.

Meanwhile, Vickers is completing a £2 billion order to

provide the British Army with more than 400 tanks. It is also expected to sign a deal worth up to £300 million to supply Qatar and Oman with Challenger 2 tanks. The Oman order will be finalised within the next fortnight, while the Qatar negotiations are expected to take a little longer.

The deals will help to secure 1,700 jobs at Vickers Defence Systems in Leeds and Newcastle and help to keep the two plants working at capacity until the end of the decade.

Sources at Vickers said that the group had picked the "right time in the cycle" to put Rolls-Royce on the market, despite having invested £200 million in

a new model due to be launched next year.

Some weekend reports suggested that there were problems with the new car and this had prompted the board to try to dispose of the business. However, company sources said: "As soon as one new model comes off the production line it is time to start investing in research to develop another. The board had to make a decision over future investment, and believes the value of the business has been maximised and now is the right time to sell."

Potential bidders include Daimler-Benz, BMW, VW, Audi and Mercedes.

Murray joins the write-off league

By PAUL DURMAN

MURRAY INTERNATIONAL, the steel stockholding owner of Glasgow Rangers, has taken advantage of its strengthened finances to write off the value of its players.

The change brings Murray into line with most quoted football clubs. Murray has written off £11.2 million against the £29.2 million of pre-tax profits it made in the year to January 31. It has also lost off £7.8 million spent on players such as Paul Gas-

coigne and Brian Laudrup, and reducing the prior-year total to £2.2 million.

The pre-tax profits total benefited from a £16.6 million profit on the sale of subsidiary businesses, including Mimtec Electronics.

Profits from the continuing operations rose from £12 million to £14 million. Expansion overseas helped to lift turnover in the metals division from £166 million to £186 million.

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French to tackle EMU ignorance

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

THE lack of preparation for economic and monetary union (EMU) among French businesses and consumers has prompted the Chirac Government to launch a £70 million advertising campaign to address the widespread ignorance of the implications.

The campaign reflects concern that France, like much of Europe, is failing to plan for the difficulties of introducing the euro in just over a year's time. A Price Waterhouse survey last month showed 61 per cent of French companies have not prepared at all for EMU.

Business leaders fear chaos when exchange rates between participating countries are fixed in 1999, signalling the start of the transition towards the euro. With large firms likely to start paying suppliers in euros in 1999, much of French industry will be sucked into the new system long before francs are taken out of circulation in 2002.

The Finance Ministry plans to distribute 20 million leaflets with advertisements in newspapers and on the radio and television, while the French equivalent of the CBI, the National Council of French Business Leaders, will next week produce brochures on the advantages and tactical problems of the single European currency.

Microsoft plans to install Windows in cars

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IF Microsoft has its way, new cars will come equipped with Windows as well as windows from next year.

The US group is planning to extend its software stranglehold into the car market, installing Windows software on car dashboards so that motorists can check electronic mail, diaries and shopping lists while on the road.

The "personal information manager" will be voice-activated, reflecting the obvious safety concerns. The computer will be able to talk back to the driver, so avoiding him having to use a screen. Paul Maritz, a Microsoft vice-pres-

ident, said: "You have got to keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel. It is well within the realm of current technology."

Mr Maritz predicted cars with Windows are likely to go into production from next autumn, but he declined to say which motor manufacturers would lead the way.

The Windows programme for the car will be a scaled-down version of the Windows CE software launched a year ago for personal organisers. Using voice-recognition software, drivers will be able to operate the computer as if they were sitting at a desk.

Microsoft was reproved by the US Justice Department last week over its aggressive wholesale marketing techniques for its Internet software. The department has asked a court in Washington to fine the group \$1 million (£590,000) for every day it continues to ignore a 1995 agreement restricting the licensing of its products.

Bill Gates, the group chairman and America's richest man, said in his first public response that the allegations were not true and that such fines were usually rejected by the courts.



Gates: denies allegations

Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

ICL enlists Dad's Army to beat millennium bug

By FRASER NELSON

A DAD'S ARMY of retired computer programmers is being assembled by ICL, the computer services company, to combat the expected shortage of workers qualified to work on the "millennium bug" problem.

More than 300 pensioners will this month be contacted by the company and offered part-time work at full hourly rates. Most will be over 60 years old, have their own PCs, and be fluent in old-style computer languages which are a mystery to many of the current generation of programmers.

ICL is also extending its search to new mothers who left the company on maternity leave and did not return. In trials, it has had acceptances from just over half of the former employees contacted.

The move is the latest indication of the problems British companies face in dealing with the millennium bug in old computers before 2000.

Duncan Short, head of ICL's Year 2000 compliance unit, said the company is looking to build an auxiliary

workforce that could start work on complex millennium bug projects without extra training. He said: "We keep the details of all our former staff on a personnel database which tells us what skills they have and their reasons for leaving. From this, we can target the sort of people who would probably appreciate the chance of a few hours extra work a week."

Those accepting its invitation can work as many or as few hours as they like. They will receive "homework packages", containing a disk with a client's faulty data, and will debug the program on their own PCs.

Mr Short said his clients are unlikely to be concerned that their software may be passed to back-up staff for correction. He said: "At the end of the day, we sign a contract with them saying what we are going to deliver. Whether that is done by somebody sitting at home or at a desk should make no difference."

The Year 2000 problem is found in computer programs

that store dates by two digits only, and will fail to understand how a year ending "00" comes after the year "99".

As the speed of computers has increased, computer systems have been updated rather than replaced. The Year 2000 problem can almost always be traced to 1970s computer codes lying at the core of many 1990s programs. However, languages such as Cobol — which were standard for programmers who have now retired — have become almost obsolete as today's new programs graduate in languages such as C++.

Richard Holway, the computer consultant whose *Holway Reports* are widely respected throughout the industry, welcomed ICL's move. He said: "I think it's an absolutely superb idea. We've been campaigning to bring back the oldies for some time now; they have the skills."

ICL's approach differs from other consultancies which have tried to recruit graduates to train up and set to work on the millennium bug.



Kick-off: Morris, left, Thompson, centre, and Kelly

Kelly hopes to score with Internet football

By JASON NISSE

A TEAM led by Darryl Kelly, the TV presenter and former editor of *NME* and *Q*, is raising £3 million from City institutions to launch a daily football newspaper on the Internet.

The publication, *Football 365*, will be delivered overnight onto the personal computers of subscribers. They will specify which clubs they follow so the news can be tailored to their interests.

The newspaper will include results, match reports going back a number of seasons, gossip and a quotes page to point out the rubbish talked by footballers and managers. The

team has a deal with the Press Association for information and is signing up local newspapers and fanzines. Mr Kelly's team, who currently present a show on Channel 4, includes David Tabrizi, a City financier, Simon Morris, whose career has taken him from Sega to Chris Evans's *Ginger Productions*, and Dan Thompson, who sold his *Renegade* computer games group to Time Warner for £5 million.

They intend to launch the paper in the new year and hope to win 250,000 subscribers within months. Initially subscription will be free.

Equity markets crash around the world but no one hurt — so far

Will the stock market fall any further? Over the past week, if there is one question I have been asked more often than this, the answer is "no".

Mr Kelly's team, who currently present a show on Channel 4, includes David Tabrizi, a City financier, Simon Morris, whose career has taken him from Sega to Chris Evans's *Ginger Productions*, and Dan Thompson, who sold his *Renegade* computer games group to Time Warner for £5 million.

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ROGER BOOTLE

three specific factors. First, central banks, including our own, quickly acted to cut interest rates and supply liquidity. The knowledge that they were taking an active approach to managing the crisis spread confidence throughout the economic and financial system. Secondly, as we now know, the underlying growth momentum in the economy was extremely strong. Thirdly, the dangers of financial instability failed to materialise, not least because the really weak link in the chain — namely the Japanese market — defied all apparent logic and held up surprisingly well.

This time round, precisely because the central banks' action in 1997 is widely judged to have contributed to the inflationary boom of the late 1980s, their response is likely to be a good deal more muted. Nevertheless, Mr Greenspan's message to the markets last week seemed to be that US rate rises were off the agenda for the immediate future, and our own monetary policy committee, which is due to pronounce on interest rates this Thursday, may take the hint and decide to hold off from raising rates.

As the underlying growth momentum, it is possible that the world economy is again set to shrug it all off, but there are some worrying features. The US recovery is very old and looks ripe for a slowdown. Meanwhile, the European recovery is fragile and the feeble Japanese pick-up is fast petering out. Moreover, it is in Japan that the financial risks are again serious — not

because asset prices are in the stratosphere but rather because they are dangerously low. Further weakness could cause serious problems for the banks.

Even if the British economy does shrug off lower share prices, there could be some important specific effects, which would again recall the late 1980s. All year we have heard about the booming property market in Central London, driven partly by speculative buying from Asia. After recent events, much of this buying could turn to selling. For with their local stock markets having fallen sharply, Asian wealth levels will have fallen. After sharp rises in London property prices a higher sterling exchange rate and now, in many cases, lower values for their own currencies, many Asian buyers will be sitting on huge profits.

If the London stock market continues to languish, turnover will fall and this may encourage banks and brokers to reconsider the size of their payrolls and the generosity of their bonus pools. This may not be of much relevance to the economy of South Shields but it is mighty important to South Kensington.

For the effect on the national economy to be really noticeable, however, either the market will have to fall a lot further, or there will have to be a significant knock-on from events in Asia. Both are possible. In August I argued that the sharp discrepancy between the rates of increase in asset prices and the rate of consumer price inflation would have to narrow. The inflation bears saw inflation rising whereas I saw share prices falling, which they have now started to do. But they will have to fall a good deal further to bring the two into line for the year. This remains much more likely than the idea that inflation will rise. Indeed, over recent weeks, for the first time in my career, unempirical professional investment managers have asked me about the dreaded "d" word — deflation.

Battle joined in talks on coal's future

JOHN BATTLE, the Energy Minister, will be pressed today by backbench MPs and union representatives over the Government's energy policy (Christine Buckley writes).

A delegation of MPs and representatives from four unions will meet Mr Battle and Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, as fears increase for the future of coal. Concern stems from the lack of progress in talks between RJB, the coal producer, and the electricity generators for new contracts to replace government-arranged ones that expire in March.

The delegation will argue that Britain is moving towards being 70 per cent dependent on gas when gas resources are not that plentiful in the UK.

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£1,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 41

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £1,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £2,000. Better still, there is a £5,000 weekly prize. If you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid.
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 41).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 41 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 41, you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

PORTFOLIO RULES 1 The Times and The Sunday Times Portfolio is free. Purchase of The Times and The Sunday Times is not a condition of taking part. 2 The Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times* Equity Prices page. The Sunday Times Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted as the Top 200 companies in *The Sunday Times* Stock Exchange price page. Readers' calculations should be based on whole numbers only. Where a fraction appears the figure should be rounded down to make a whole number e.g. +4½ equals +4. The companies comprising the list will change from day to day. This list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers. 3 The Times and The Sunday Times "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (ie, the largest increase or

lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of the 44 shares which on any one day comprises *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 5 The Times and The Sunday Times Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Cards are freely available at Times Newspapers Ltd offices or you can call the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. 6 If the overall price movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend the prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding those combinations of shares. If the prize is undivided it will be added to the following day's prize for the daily game or the next week's prize for the accumulator. There is a limited prize pool and in the event of there being more winners than prizes available in the prize pool, *Times Newspapers Ltd* reserves the right to

distribute the available prize by a random draw. 7 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Portfolio card that is defaced, tampered with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void. 8 Employees of *Times Newspapers Ltd* and its subsidiaries and of *Europrint Group* (the publishers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Portfolio. 9 All participants will be subject to these rules. All instructions on how to play and how to claim whether published in *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* or on Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these rules. The Editor reserves the right to amend the Rules. Any amendments will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 10 In any dispute the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 11 If for any reason *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* prices page is not published in the normal way Portfolio will be suspended for the day. 12 Persons under the age of 18 are ineligible to play. 13 Winners MUST agree to publication of their names and/or photograph in *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times*.

THE TIMES

Another little drop of caricature, Tone?

For almost two decades, having a bit of a problem with Mike Leigh meant you had a bit of a problem with Alison Steadman. I'll own up to both. If you wondered how Leigh's legendary rehearsal period seemed only to produce characters that bordered on the caricature, you started to worry about Steadman's performance. She was terribly clever — wasn't she?

Then there was Leigh's humour. Were all the jokes at the expense of the lower middle classes, or aimed at the rest of us who sat there smugly chuckling away, confident that there was not the slightest possibility of us being mistaken for a Candice-Marie or a Beverly, a Keith or a Tone? Either way, didn't that make Steadman an accomplice to GPH — grievous patronising harm?

I was no nearer to answering those questions at the end of *Funny Women*: Alison Steadman

(BBC2) which kicked off the *Abigail's Party* Night on Saturday. But I was better equipped to go away and have another think about them, thanks to Louis Heaton's affectionate but impressively revealing profile.

Among the revelations was the fact that Steadman is first, and arguably foremost, a mimic. Her fellow actors (as a tribe they can be rather snooty about performances based on impersonation) preferred to describe her talent as "acute observational powers".

But we know what they meant. And so did Steadman, quite relaxed about an aptitude which, in her eyes, had saved her from a career of playing blonde dolly birds. Beverly was based on an Essex lady she had met, Candice-Marie on a friend, a reporter in *Newshounds* on a car-crash Nina Myskova. Steadman called them her "jumping-off points".

Very much in the style of a Leigh

character, Peter York popped up to make the occasional jarring point about class. My particular favourite was him describing Candice-Marie and Keith from *Nuts in May* as "pretentious bullies". Bit rich, coming from someone who played the glib-fob-off "wholesale aesthetes".

But later, as I watched the repeat of *Abigail's Party*, it was John Saltmarsh's contribution that I remembered. Saltmarsh, who played the magnificently monosyllabic Tony, recalled the audience reaction when the play was first performed in the theatre. "Some people wanted to hit her and some people thought she was camp and very, very funny." More than 20 years on, not much had changed.

Twenty series on (yes, honestly) not much had changed with *Antiques Roadshow* (BBC1), which is probably just as well. The nearest we got to

REVIEW

Matthew Bond



innovation last night was a collector's cabinet from which a different expert each week will take their favourite little curio and tell about it. Can we stand the excitement? I think we can.

After several disappointments and one downright disaster (*The Great Antiques Hunt*) in the never-ending search to replicate the series' astonishing success, the old master returned to show the

vulgar upstairs how it should be done. Which is effortlessly. The basic format of people, objects and valuations is so simple and yet so sustainable, that *Antiques Roadshow* could probably run forever.

Sensibly or accidentally (further programmes will reveal which), the show's Achilles' heel, the potentially clichéd valuation sequence, was slightly played down in this opening show from Dartmouth. A fairly sophisticated bunch of owners (including Alfred Dunhill's son, who brought in a fountain-pen) knew a lot more than the basics and were only politely bowled over by the prices.

To such an extent that the game I invented last year (with the unwitting help of actor/playwright David Conville, who invented a much better game linked to obituaries) became rather poor sport. Once again the combination of "goodness" and/or "gracious" proved unbeatable, some way

ahead of the second placed "that's interesting". Otherwise notable was a first-time appearance of "retail?" and a wonderfully insouciant "Hah, that has surprised me".

Two people had their day modestly made — a bronze incense-burner bought for £10 at a boot sale and valued at £500, and a children's book bought for £20 and valued at £1,200. But it was the fine Victorian watercolour that sticks in the memory. Turned out it was a fine Victorian touch-up photograph, worth a tenth of the £3,000 it might have been. The owner had the good grace to look crushed. "Very disappointing," he mumbled. "I'm thinking of awarding double points for honesty."

I have left *Get Well Soon* (BBC1) until last because I'm fed up with getting caught out by first episodes of new sitcoms. "Hm, not bad," I write, caught up by the spirit of charity that necessarily surrounds

anyone who bravely sets out to make us laugh. But the number of times I've "hmm'd, not bad" and regretted it horribly by episode three...

Nevertheless, *Get Well Soon*, from the pens of Ray Galton and John Antrobus, really did show signs of being not bad. The "sit" is certainly unusual, being a 1947 TB sanatorium, and the "com", dare I say it, looks promising, particularly given the constraints of an early evening show.

The canned laughter jarred unpleasantly in the early scenes and Matthew Conville, as the ailing Roy, had more than a touch of the Nicholas Lyndhurst about him. But with intriguingly surreal contributions from Robert Buhlurst as Squadron Leader Fielding and Samantha Beckinsale as the glamorous and newly widowed Mrs Howell, the series got off to the sort of start... Nope, mustn't get carried away.

5.00am Business Breakfast (10628)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (5086)

9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5044406)

9.25 Style Challenge (5056241)

9.50 Kilroy (1) (2671333)

10.30 Change That In Sheffield (1989195)

10.55 The Really Useful Show Alternative remedies for asthma (1) (7341845)

11.35 Real Rooms A Black Country living-room (9514228)

12.00 News (1) and weather (6731777)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (8862195)

12.35 Going for a Song (2750574)

1.00 News (1) and weather (85845)

1.30 Regional News (1) (8487108)

1.40 The Weather Show (5322295)

1.45 Neighbours (1) (97284116)

2.10 Quilroy (1) (2436345)

3.00 World on a Plate Mexico's contribution to world cuisine (1) (5628)

3.30 Playdays (1) (8028093) 3.50 Enchanted Lands (1621796) 4.00 Royal Dads! Revolving Recedes (9481406) 4.15 Noah's Island (1) (4965888) 4.40 Goosebumps (1) (6714593) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5952932) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (9803932)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (825512)

6.00 News (1) and weather (51)

6.30 Regional News (1) (13)

7.00 This Is Your Life (1) (7809)

7.30 Here and Now A report on a microscopic plant infecting the North Sea, threatening fish by the million (1) (15)

8.00 EastEnders (1) (6357)

8.30 Only Fools and Horses Rodney tries his role in Trotters Independent Traders (1) (1) (5884)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) regional news and weather (4116)

9.30 Hotel This first in an eight-part series at Liverpool's famous Adelphi Hotel, beginning with the weekend of the Grand National (1) (85406)

10.00 Panorama: The Surrogate Martin Bashir talks to three couples at the centre of a bitter feud over the newborn baby of surrogate mother Karen Roche (1) (196332)

10.40 On Side John Inverdale chats to world heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis, and Jockey Walter Swinburn, Luciano Pavarotti talks about his love of soccer. Plus a report on Italian king of the ring Mike Tyson (1) (905777)

11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman The new attractions at this year's London Film Festival, including *Keep the Aspidochelone* Flying, starring Helena Bonham Carter and Richard E. Grant, and *The Ice Storm*, with Sigourney Weaver. Also featured: *Faces/Off* (1) (86583)

12.00 The Mechanic (1972) A slick professional hit man is persuaded to take on a young apprentice to help him carry out his dirty work. Violent thriller, with Charles Bronson, Jan-Michael Vincent, Keenan Wynn and Jill Ireland. Directed by Michael Winner (1) (83395)

1.35am Weather (9783433)

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BUSINESS

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Market worries not over yet says Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 3 1997

Roditi pay to plummet as market rout hits Soros Quota fund

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

NICHOLAS RODITI, whose estimated earnings last year of £85 million made him Britain's highest paid man, looks set for a breathtaking pay cut because the value of the investment funds he manages has collapsed by nearly \$500 million (£300 million) since July.

Mr Roditi, who runs part of the George

Soros investment empire from offices in Hampstead, North London, has seen the value of money invested in the Quota Fund he manages fall 20 per cent over the past four months. The steep decline partly reflects the falls in worldwide financial markets, which are estimated to have cost Mr Soros about \$2 billion.

The Quota Fund has also been hit by a fall in the entry premium that investors have to pay. In July, the premium was 67

per cent over net asset values. Since then the premium has fallen to 48 per cent as demand for the fund declined.

These setbacks for Quota will have an immediate impact on Mr Roditi's earnings, which are closely linked to the performance he achieves. His enormous income in recent years reflected the strong performance of the fund, which produced annual returns of 50 per cent last year and 150 per cent in 1995.

In July, Quota had net assets of \$2.4 billion and leveraged trading positions totalling \$57 billion. Mr Soros's latest annual report shows that a minimum investment of \$100,000 in Mr Roditi's fund in 1992 would today be worth \$750,000, including dividend payments.

Wall Street traders said the publicity shy Mr Roditi combines extreme risk-taking with a willingness to hold on to investments long-term even when they

are doing badly. His confidence in his investments is said to come from first-hand knowledge of the items in his portfolio. Recently, Mr Roditi made a complex \$38 billion bet that the dollar will appreciate against other currencies. He also wagered \$13 billion on the fall of bonds in Asia. This move was a rare change in his investment strategy. This year, he was bullish on US and European government bonds. His US and Euro-

pean bond positions then totalled \$19 billion, the annual report shows.

The Soros organisation declined to comment. Mr Soros created the Quota Fund in 1992 as a spin-off from the Quantum Fund, which he had used to break the pound on Black Wednesday.

Like Mr Soros, Mr Roditi is known as a "macro investor" who speculates on the movement of whole sections of the market rather than individual stocks or bonds.

Retailers fear EU consumer rights changes

By ADAM JONES AND CARL MORTISHED

RETAILERS are worried about a proposed European law that will give consumers more power to claim refunds for faulty merchandise.

The Brussels directive would give consumers the right to a refund or replacement merchandise if a fault appears within one year of delivery. If a fault appears in the second year, the customer will be able to claim a free repair or a price reduction.

The proposed European directive represents a radical departure from current UK law, which provides consumers with a short-term right, often merely a few weeks, to reject unsatisfactory goods. Longer term, consumers in Britain have a right to claim damages only, which might include the cost of repair, although these damages can be claimed for up to six years after the date of purchase.

verses the burden of proof and assumes that any defect in the first six months was present at time of delivery.

The British Retail Consortium claims that draft legislation aimed at extending consumer rights will add as much as 2 per cent to the cost of goods in the shops.

Mark Souhami, chairman of the British Retail Consortium and deputy chairman of Dixons, said that retailers will have to cover the cost of these new liabilities by imposing higher prices.

He said: "It is likely to add 1 to 2 per cent to the cost of all merchandise. The cost to the consumer would run into billions."

The Department of Trade and Industry issued a consultation paper on the proposed law ahead of negotiations scheduled by Luxembourg, the current EU president. The decision whether to implement the proposed directive is likely to be taken under British presidency next year.

A final economic impact study is expected from the European Commission next month. Implementation of the directive in the UK will require a corresponding Act of Parliament.

The DTI said that the two-year guarantee period did not mean that all goods will have to be built to last at least two years. Goods that are commonly expected to last a short time, such as disposable razors, will not be covered.

strength of British business comes from the London Chamber of Commerce, which today reports that the capital's economy is surging ahead largely unaffected by the strength of sterling.

However, Experian, which analyses data from businesses worldwide, said the pound's strength was bad news for the leisure and hotels sector in the second quarter of 1997.

Not only did the number of tourists to the UK fall sharply in the first six months of the

year as the UK became more expensive, but foreign holidays for Britons became correspondingly cheaper.

Also badly hit was the engineering sector, which was affected by weakened exports and a shortage of skills.

Peter Brooker, an associate director of Experian, said: "Engineering products are more sensitive to price changes in international markets." Chemicals, textiles, food manufacturing and the media were also hit.

neighbouring site occupied by NCP Car Parks and owned by London Transport.

The Wimpey site is expected to fetch about £15 million but competition will be keen. The site comprises two office blocks, a 1950s building at the front and a 1970s block to the rear. Wimpey has secured planning permission for a new 120,000 sq ft redevelopment at the front, opening the door to a 300,000 sq ft development.

Stanhope, the property development company run by Stuart Lipton, has been in talks with Wimpey and is making inquiries about a



The pithead tower of Monktonhall Colliery near Edinburgh was demolished this weekend. The demolition ended the hopes of miners who each invested £10,000 in 1992 to try to save their jobs. Flooding problems made the mine unprofitable, and it closed in June with the loss of 700 jobs.

UK profits at six-year high

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PROFITS of UK companies are at their highest for six years, with oil, pharmaceutical and construction companies showing the greatest growth in earnings, a new report says.

However, sterling's recent strength and its effect on exports is likely to take a toll of company results and profitability later in the year, according to Experian, the credit-checking agency formerly known as C&A Group.

More evidence of the

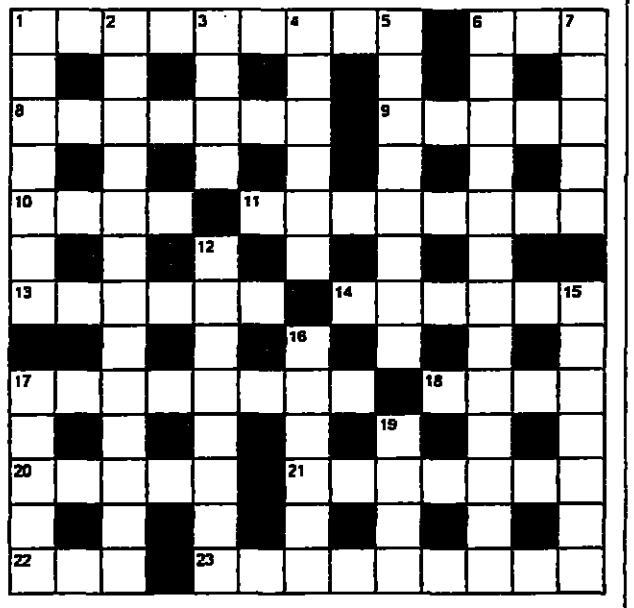
Developers eye £15m Wimpey headquarters

By CARL MORTISHED

PROPERTY developers are prowling around the massive Wimpey corporate headquarters in West London. The housebuilder is expected to put the Hammersmith site on the market early next year, making way for a £40-50 million redevelopment.

Stanhope, the property development company run by Stuart Lipton, has been in talks with Wimpey and is making inquiries about a

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1241

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trifle; pinball game (9)
 - 6 Scrap of material; horse-play (3)
 - 8 Dryness (7)
 - 9 Rebuke (5)
 - 10 Old head of Venice (4)
 - 11 Insults, offences (8)
 - 13 Come back; profit (6)
 - 14 Home-by deadline (6)
 - 17 Cutter with belt of teeth (8)
 - 18 The latest information (4)
 - 20 Power (5)
 - 21 American plain (7)
 - 22 Animal as Hodge (John-son), Selima (Walpole) (5)
 - 23 Twin-hull boat, a 22 (9)
- DOWN**
- 1 Lodge; sounds like rim (7)
 - 2 Abandoning life of crime (5,8)
 - 3 Hard work (4)
 - 4 Make redundant; leave me alone! (3,3)
 - 5 Digression (8)
 - 6 Jacobin period; vicious repression (5,2,6)
 - 7 Have a stab (5)
 - 12 With demented excitement (8)
 - 13 Occidental; cowboy film (7)
 - 16 Rug; reprimand (6)
 - 17 Funnies; a magazine (5)
 - 19 Agricultural establishment (4)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1240**
- ACROSS:** 1 Degas 7 Vatican 8 Violate 9 Saviour 11 Digs in 13 Catherine 15 Valentine 19 Saints 21 Art form 23 At large 24 Scarier 25 Towel
- DOWN:** 1 David 2 George 3 Static 4 Ives 5 Vizier 6 Calumny 10 Athens 12 Natter 14 Patrick 16 Effort 17 Eagle 18 Andrew 20 Spell 22 Mark

M&S expansion to create 2,000 jobs worldwide

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MARKS & SPENCER, which unveils half-year results tomorrow, will create almost 2,000 jobs in the first stage of a £2 billion expansion programme to turn itself into a truly international retailer.

The group confirmed yesterday that almost 2,000 jobs would be created worldwide in the financial year to April 1998. The three-year project will include increasing retail space in Britain and new stores for Hong Kong and Germany.

The retailer also has its sights set on expansion in France, and intends to open outlets in Dartford and Manchester. The latter, at 250,000 sq ft, will replace the Marble Arch store as the world's largest M&S store.

The company is currently piloting in-store bakeries and butchers counters. This move has led to speculation that the group intends to begin competing with rival supermarkets such as Sainsbury and Tesco in the same basic commodities rather than premi-

um products. However, Cheryl Kuczyński, a spokeswoman for the retailer, denied that M&S is preparing an assault on the supermarkets' traditional territory. She said: "The sale of basic commodities like salt is a very competitive area. We intend to concentrate instead on areas where we can add value. That is what we are particularly good at."

"Supermarkets sell an average of 25,000 different food products, whereas we have only 2,500. We will continue to be selective."

M&S is overhauling the 19 stores it bought from the Littlewoods chain in July. These will open as M&S outlets from next summer.

Analysts have predicted that half-year profits will show a rise from £430 million to around £460 million, although the pound's recent strength will have taken its toll of the value of overseas profits.

Companies, page 43

Lloyds TSB runs buyer's rule over life insurers

By RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS TSB is casting an eye over several life insurers as it looks to spend some of its huge capital surplus on a UK acquisition.

Peter Ellwood, chief executive, said the bank was "running its slide rule over a number of companies", but he stressed there was no imminent deal.

Potential targets include some of the mutual insurers and new convert Norwich Union, though analysts believe Lloyds TSB could make a bid for Abbey National or Nationwide.

Analysts also pointed out that the bank has a track record of making acquisitions during the fourth quarter so that the books were clear for the new year.

Acquisitions in the life assurance or mortgage markets are unlikely to run into difficulties with the regulators, unlike the mooted merger of Barclays and NatWest, because Lloyds TSB has less than 10 per cent of either market.

Mr Ellwood said the bank currently had about £1 billion of excess capital that could be used for acquisitions, though in the absence of any deal he would consider returning the money to shareholders through a buy-back or special dividend.

While not ruling out an acquisition on the Continent, Mr Ellwood said the bank's expansion into Europe would be based on the use of technology. One possibility is a link with a European retailer, as Lloyds TSB has joined forces with Asda in the UK.

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Barclays Life	35.40	Abbey National Life	77.58
Commercial Union	36.00	Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	41.58	Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	44.00	Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	45.50	Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	50.85	London & Manchester	115.34
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■ **Tomorrow**
Philip Bassett, left, assesses the feedback from the minimum wage roadshow

■ **Wednesday**
Chris Ayers looks at the picture for video-conferencing

■ **Thursday**
Graham Searjeant takes a sidelong look at the financial world